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CINEMA

GUTS & GLORY

ULAGANAYAGAN
KAMAL HAASAN'S
vishwaroopam
is *finally* home

MASALA KING!

director
LINGUSAMY'S
take on making
360 DEGREE
entertainers



a VOLUME of VALENTINE

SWEET PAIN
of **SORROW**
romantic tragedies
we *love* to cry at
IMMORTAL **LOVE**
evergreen on-screen
COUPLES on our
faves list

DREAMING IN the SURREAL

G. VENKET RAM'S
CONCEPT CALENDAR
explores a softly
PSYCHEDELIC
side of
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TRISHA leads the *string of* leading
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- these are women *we love to love!*

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FEBRUARY 2013



COVERSTORY 54

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EDITOR'S NOTE

the galatta girl speaks

HAPPY MEMORIES from an unforgettable shoot - our first with Trisha, shot by Sunder Ramu, styled by Sidney Sladen and captured at the sumptuous Hyatt Regency Chennai!

A jazzy January later, here we are, plonked in the Valentine month and sifting through our movie options. Or at least, I am; as is my entire team of buzzing worker bees.

January was a month of ups and downs – I know that Alex Pandian got a bit of flak for its masala nature, but hey, I enjoyed it despite its loose ends and frayed edges and it was unabashedly, unreal-ly entertainment. Around its release were also a number of other noteworthy Southern releases; from Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu, Naayak, Kannaa Laddu Thinna Aasaiyaa, Samar, Puthagam and so on. Phew. Much time spent in cinema halls!

Of course, the word on everyone's lips is: Vishwaroopam. Ulaganayagan Kamal Haasan ran into perhaps his biggest hurdle in recent times with much tumult around the movie, from the run-in with exhibitors thanks to the DTH scenario, then with a sudden ban because of Muslim protesters. The Tamilnadu Govt. entered the situation sensing unrest and volatility. The Court ordered a ban on the movie's release. Twice!

What the matter really was hasn't yet been clarified to the public, but it created a huge wave of outrage across borders, generating heated support for Kamal Haasan. The questions on everyone lips were: Have we become a completely intolerant and overly sensitive society? Is this just religion or something more? Has religion become bigger than God? Did Kamal Haasan go wrong somewhere? Are the boundaries of creativity tightening like a noose? Is the Censor Board a powerless entity? What is the future of creative professions?

All this, despite the Censor Board clearing the movie for release.

Finally, though, with the silent support and efforts of cinema fraternity members in resolving the situation, the state of Tamilnadu gave its nod and so did the courts. The movie will finally release to packed audiences on February 7th, with snips and cuts here and there, thanks to the protests. The people of Tamilnadu finally get to see the movie much after several countries around the world. A happy ending with a sad process that forces us all to look again at the kind of volcanic people we have become in the 21st century.

Here's the good part: For the first time in ages, the illegal DVD business that is even today killing the industry, catered its dubious services to thousands less than it would have usually. Fans of Kamal Haasan and even those who merely like going to the movies, decided to stand in support of the film and watch it when it releases on the big screen and not otherwise!

Anyway, moving along from that, our February issue has much love in it... starting with the covergirl, who we're in love with too: Trisha leads a bevy of beauties for 2013 – it promises to be a gorgeous year for cinema's leading ladies!

Also in here: some cool Valentine features, an interesting interview with the quirky director Lingusamy, a peek into G. Venket Ram's gorgeous calendar and much more to read. February is going to fly by for you, we promise.

Enjoy reading!

Shakthi Girish



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READERS' VOICES

The interviews with the five cinematographers was a treat. Many more such pieces please!
- Vanya Krishna, Chennai



The take on the best of 2012 in Tamil cinema was an interesting piece. Debatable, yet good!
- Pradyuman Hari, Madurai

HAPPY NEW YEAR

And it indeed was! What a great start to 2013 with a three in one Galatta Cinema bonanza. It was great to see my favourite magazine start the year with a bang. The best part of the January issue was the Samantha cover. It was full of interesting articles, comprehensive and well executed.

- Ganesan Kumar, Chennai

GORGEOUSNESS GALORE!

Samantha on the cover, lovely pics of her in traditional wear, Janani Iyer and Pooja Kumar gracing the inner pages... I must say it was a gorgeous January issue. The interviews with the actresses too were interesting to read. These girls are more than just pretty faces. Please do many more such interviews.

- Prathamesh Sharma, Chennai

KARTHI ROCKS!

It was an interesting interview with Karthi as he spoke about Alex Pandian. It had been some time since his last interview in the magazine. I love him as an actor and in the interview he came across as a really chilled out guy. Please

feature many more such interviews with the young stars of South cinema.

- Ramya Damodaran, Hyderabad

Dear Ramya,
Thanks for your kind words. Yes, it was indeed a pleasure working with Karthi. We will definitely try and bring you many more such interviews. Please continue to send us your feedback so that we can give many more such interesting features.

- Ed

LAUGHTER KING, SANTHANAM

Wow!!! An interview with the King of Comedy was a treat. I have been watching him since his TV days and have not missed even a single movie of his. I was laughing even before I started reading the interview, but I must say that there is more to him than just being a funny guy. He came across as an intelligent actor. I also enjoyed the video interview of his on Galatta.com. Please feature many more such funny men and women in your magazine.

- Udaykumar P, Chennai

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- Post Box No. 7166, Chennai 600 102. We look forward to filling this page with YOUR words!

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FEB

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VISHWAROOPAM

Will it? Won't it? This has been the question for the last few weeks for Kamal Haasan and his Vishwaroopam in Tamil Nadu. While the movie opened in other parts of India and the world, Tamil fans were deprived of the movie. But now things seem to be looking up for the actor. We hope that by the time this issue is out, Vishwaroopam is out on screens in Tamil Nadu.

FEB
2013

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03
FEB

STR

This year STR is expected to have two releases Vaalu and Vettaimannan. He started off the year with a cameo in Kanna Laddu Thinna Asaiya.

12
FEB

JAGAPATHI BABU

Jagapathi Babu returned to Tamil cinema and debuted in Kannada in 2012. 2013 is expected to be his big year in Telugu cinema.

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SIDDHARTH - BACK TO TAMIL CINEMA WITH A BANG!

Vibrant Siddharth started his cinema career in Tamil, but found his calling in Tollywood! He then came back to Kollywood, this time as a producer too with his *Kadhalil Sodhappuvadhu Eppadi*, which was one of the top hits of 2012! However, this dimpled lover-boy will be well and truly back in Tamil with a slew of movies in 2013! Siddharth is currently working on 3 Tamil movies, one of which is *Udhayam NH4*, a story written by ace director Vetrимаaran. Siddharth will be seen alongside Hansika, Ganesh Venkatraman and Santhanam, in Sundar C.'s upcoming directorial, *Theeya Velai Seyyanum Kumaru*! Siddharth has also signed up *Kaaviya Thalaivan*, the next offering from Vasanthabalan, and it is in the pre-production stage now! Tamil cinema apart, Siddharth is awaiting the release of his English movie, *Midnight's Children*, and the Hindi venture *Chashme Baddoor*, apart from filming for his Telugu movie *Jabardasth*! One busy year ahead for Siddharth, indeed!



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ISHA SHARVANI - DANCING HER WAY TO SOUTH CINEMA!

After making her cinematic debut in 2005, in Subash Ghai's Bollywood movie *Kisna: The Warrior Poet*, Isha Sharvani the talented dancer-actor has been steadily carving a niche for herself in the cinema industry! After a flurry of movies in Hindi over the years, she is finally coming down South! Though she made a special appearance in the 'Theeye Theeye' song in Suriya's *Maattraan*, she will be debuting properly with the upcoming Tamil-Hindi bilingual, *David*! Directed by Bejoy Nambiar, the Tamil version has Vikram and Jiiva in the lead roles, and will have Isha playing the character of Roma, Vikram's leading lady! The movie has been creating quite a buzz, and sure is expected to be quite a launchpad for the beauty in the Tamil industry! That is not all! Isha will also be making her Bollywood debut with the movie *Anju Sundarikal*!



KANIHAA - THE DIMPLED BEAUTY!

Divya Venkatasubramaniam, known to us as Kanihaa, has settled down in Bollywood, after a foray across all the other South Indian industries! Though she made her debut in Tamil, and also starred in a number of Kannada and Telugu movies, Kanihaa has stuck to only Malayalam movies, from 2009! Ever since, she has had some remarkable hits to her name, and all her 3 releases in 2012, *Cobra*, *Spirit* and *Bavuttiyude Namathil*, went on to score big with the audiences! She is currently working in 3 movies, *EMSum Penkuttiyum*, *Cadaver* and *Orissa*! We hope she decides to get back to doing movies in the other South Indian languages too! The other industries are missing you, K!

SHWETA MENON - FROM CONTROVERSY TO AWARDS!

The sexy siren Shweta Menon seems to be hitting headlines, at very frequent intervals! Very recently, she was in the eye of a storm, after it became known that she had allowed director Blessy to film her delivery, for their upcoming movie *Kalimannu*! Shweta, with the full support of her husband and family, braved the protests from all quarters, and stood firm! This time round, the sizzling diva, who has scorched the screens with her glamour, and wowed the audiences with her performances, has hit the headlines, for all the right reasons! Shweta Menon has been awarded the Best Character Artiste (Female) Award, at the Ujala Asianet Film Awards - 2013! This sure is an honour, coming in an industry where talented performers abound!



AISHWARYA ARJUN FOLLOWING IN DAD'S FOOTSTEPS!

Action King Arjun's daughter Aishwarya is all set to make her debut into the dream world of cinema! She will be seen opposite the strapping Vishal in his upcoming movie, *Pattathu Yaanai*! This movie, directed by Boopathy Pandian and produced by Michael S. Rayappan, is touted to be an action comedy and also has Santhanam in it! The shooting for the movie has already begun, and is currently progressing rapidly! There sure would be a lot of expectation on the girl, but we are sure that daddy dearest Arjun will have passed on quite some valuable tips to Aishwarya! All the best!

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THULASI - MAKING A DREAM DEBUT!

Almost all the contemporary actors and actresses would have wanted to star in atleast one movie directed by ace Mani Ratnam! But, how cool would it be to have your movie career launched by the great director? Thulasi, the younger daughter of yesteryear actress Radha, and sister of Ko fame Karthika Nair, will be getting just that! Thulasi sure is one lucky girl! Her debut movie Kadal, under Mani Ratnam's direction will have her playing the lead, alongside fellow debutant Gautham, son of Navarasa Naayagan Karthik! Not only that, Thulasi will also be getting to share screen space with veterans like Arjun, Arvind Swami, and also the immensely talented Lakshmi Manchu! Kadal has music by the maestro, A.R. Rahman. What more could an aspiring actress want, for her maiden venture! You've got it all girl! Wish you all success, and a bright career ahead!

CLICK THE PLAY BUTTON TO TO LISTEN TO WHAT THULASI HAS TO SAY ABOUT HER DEBUT MOVIE KADAL.



STR - THE BIRTHDAY BOY!

Singer, director, lyricist, awesome dancer and a fine actor - Silambarasan, or STR as we know him, celebrates his 30th birthday, this February 3rd! STR kicked off 2013 with a guest appearance in this year's Pongal super hit, Santhanam's maiden production venture, Kanna Laddu Thinna Asaiya! Following this, STR has a busy year ahead, with three off his movies under progress now! Vettai Mannan, under debutant Nelson's direction, will see STR scorching the screen with Hansika, Deeksha Seth and Poonam Kaur, with Jai and Santhanam for company! For Vaalu, STR will again be coming together with Hansika and Santhanam, but will also have Brahmanandam and Salim Ghouse for company, under another debutant director, Vijay Chander! Reports state that for Vada Chennai, Vetrimaaran will be directing STR, Andrea and Divya Spandana! However, this movie has been going through a lot of obstacles, and has been put on the back-burner, for now! Meanwhile, STR has lent his voice to the title track of Kedi Billa Killadi Ranga, starring Sivakarthikeyan and Vimal! Galatta wishes the birthday baby a very Happy Birthday, and a rocking year ahead!

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UDHAYANIDHI STALIN - THE GAME STARTS AGAIN!



A successful producer, turned actor with OKOK! The movie played to his strengths and he became well known as an actor, instantaneously! After relishing the success of his maiden venture, Udhayanidhi is back to donning the grease paint! His second venture will be Idhu Kadirvelin Kadhal, opposite none other than our Villu girl, Nayantara! This movie is to be directed by S.R. Prabhakaran, M. Sasikumar's assistant, who won an award for best debut director for his movie Sundarapandian! The first look posters of this movie have already been released, and show the pair of Udhayanidhi and Nayantara, posing together!! The buzz is that, this is a light-hearted movie with Udhayanidhi playing the role of a villager! Will Udhayanidhi establish himself as an actor, others should be wary of? Let's wait and see!



TAMANNAAH - BACK TO BOLLYWOOD!

Tantalizing Tamannaah, made her debut into Tinseltown with the Hindi flick, Chand Sa Roshan Chehra! However, after that, she has worked only in Tamil and Telugu movies. In 2010, Tamannaah had 3 releases in Tamil, and 2011 saw her in a handful of both Tamil and Telugu flicks! However, all of Tamannaah's four releases in 2012, were in Tollywood! After a gap of over 8 years, Tamannaah has returned to Bollywood, and will be seen opposite Ajay Devgn in Himmatwala! But that is not all that is in store for Tamannaah's fans in 2013! She will also be seen opposite Naga Chaitanya in Thadaka, the Telugu remake of the super hit Tamil flick Vettai! Tamannaah's fans in Kollywood can rejoice too! She will be seen opposite 'Thala' Ajith, in Siruthai Siva's upcoming movie! This movie has an ensemble cast, with Jayaram, Santhanam, Vidharth and Ilavarasu also being a part of this project! We love the way you are balancing the industries babe! Keep it up!

RICHA GANGOPADHYAY - MIRCHI GIRL!

Flushed with joy from the success of her Sarocharu, co-starring Ravi Teja, Kajal Aggarwal and Nara Rohith, Richa has two more biggies lined up for 2013! Hitting screens this month will be Mirchi, her upcoming movie with Prabhas and Anushka Shetty. This movie, directed by Koratala Siva, also has some powerhouse performers in Sathyaraj, Nadia and Brahmanandam as part of the cast! We hear that Richa will be playing the character of an NRI girl, called Maanasa! In her next, Richa will be seen opposite King Nagarjuna in Bhai, under Veerabhadran's direction, and will have music by Devi Sri Prasad! This movie is being produced by Nagarjuna, under his own banner, Annapurna Studios, and will also have Nathalia Kaur and Sonu Sood! Richa seems to have catapulted to the big league! Good going gal!



ARVIND SWAMY - BACK ON THE SILVER SCREEN!



Mani Ratnam's original blue-eyed boy, the man who swept all the ladies off their feet in the 90's, Arvind Swamy, was last seen in the 2006 movie, Sasanam! But, good news ladies! He is back to movies, and will be seen in Mani Ratnam's Kadal! After being out of action for quite some time, it

will be quite a treat to see the charming actor on the big screen again. The buzz is that he is playing a chunky role in Kadal, and we are sure that all of you (especially the ladies) wish, he is well and truly back to cinema! We sure do! Welcome back, Arvind!

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VISHAL - THE TIRELESS WARRIOR!

After a lot of hurdles, Vishal's Samar finally saw the light of day for Pongal! To accomodate this movie, his other release Madha Gaja Raja, had to be postponed! However, there's good news for Vishal's fans this month too, with Madha Gaja Raja, directed by Sundar C. releasing. MGR, as Madha Gaja Raja is known, also sees Vishal alongside 2 heroines, Anjali and Varalaxmi Sarathkumar! Meanwhile, Vishal has already started work on his next, Pattathu Yaanai, and this movie will see Action King Arjun's daughter Aishwarya, making her cinematic debut as Vishal's leading lady! Exciting times ahead for Vishal!

photography: g. venket ram



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GALATTA ULAGAM

Greetings to All Galatta Cinema readers. I hope you liked my debut article and thanks for those who sent me wishes.



CEO SPEAKS

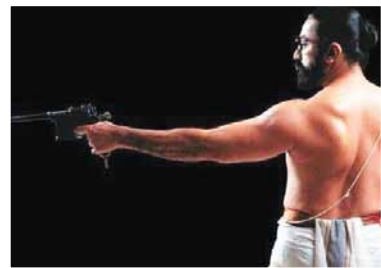
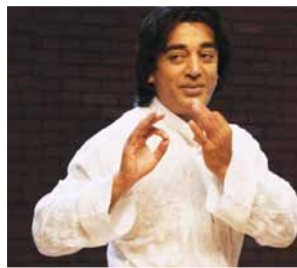
Hi my dear Galatta Cinema Readers.

Thanks to the overwhelming response to my section and you can continue to write to me at crv@galatta.com.

Pongal was a hot month for movies with many movies releasing which included Kanna Laddu Thinna Aasiya, Alex Pandian, Samar and Puthagam. After that it was the tale of Vishwaroopam taking centre stage with all eyes on the developments. From bans to bans it was all bad going for Vishwaroopam and it was Kamal on the receiving end.

I quickly remembered my first encounter with Kamal during the times of Hey Ram at his residence and I always admire him as an icon.

-C.R. Venkatesh



blast into the past



I wish I can go a few years back, always for 2 reasons. 1 for being younger and 1 for the unforgettable chats!



We are proud to announce the launch of G Studios, the latest entrant in the field of film production. Launched by actor Kreshna, the first venture under our banner is 'Navarasam', a short film written and directed by the young duo of Ranga & Deeraj Vaidy. As the title suggests the film is based on the nine human expressions; Srngara – Love, Hasya – Humour, Karuna - compassion, Raudra – Anger, Veera – Valour, Bhaya – Fear, Bhibhatsa – Disgust, Adbhuta – Wonder, Shanta - Tranquility. The cinematography is handled by Aravind Swaminathan, music is by Dayanand Piraisudan and editing is by Anil Krish.

event-ahh



January was the month of 2 mega events. 1 being the launch of the Short Film division and another was the launch of the Online Movies section.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PICTURES OF THE LAUNCH EVENT](#)
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starryclicks



Way back in 2007, we had Vinay coming down to our Galatta abode for a chat. It brings pleasant memories of his movies and his gesture to come down there.

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The latest photo galleries across Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi and English cinema. Check out the latest updates.

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REVIEW RAJA



Review Raja continues to charm us with his interesting reviews on Tamil Cinema. His latest is the Vishwaroopam review. He gets into the Kamal Haasan get up as the kathak dancer and delivers a punch. The review is detailed and addresses every aspect of the movie without giving away the plot.

Do not miss out on the reviews of upcoming releases. Meanwhile, he's all set to visit us at the Galatta offices in February on his Chennai tour! Visit www.galatta.com/reviewraja. He is also on twitter with the handle @MovieReviewRaja.

TRAILERS

There's always a new movie around the corner, which means there's a new trailer and a photo shoot and a music album as well! But it is the trailers that grab attention first. Check out our latest additions.



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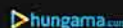
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RELEASE



FEBRUARY RELEASE


Posango
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ராஜசேகர் தினேஷ் A.சம்பத் G.விஜயகுமார் K.நடராஜ் ஜான்சன் 24am
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இணை தயாரிப்பு ஜேம்ஸ்

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KEDI BILLA KILLADI RANGA

CAST: Sivakarthikeyan, Vimal, Bindu Madhavi, Regina

DIRECTOR: Pandiraj

PRODUCER: Pandiraj, P. Madhan

BANNER: Pasanga Productions, Escape Artists Motion Pictures, Studio Green

MUSIC: Yuvanshankar Raja

GENRE: Comedy

Set in the backdrop of Trichy, Kedi Billa Killadi Ranga showcases the lives of four talented individuals, and how they resort to clever and sometimes not so lawful methods to reach their means. This movie is touted to be completely different from Pandiraj's earlier flicks. The film has Vimal and Siva Karthikeyan in lead roles. Bindu Madhavi and Regina are the leading ladies. "In the rural areas, the street smart are referred to as 'kedi billas'. My film is about two 'kedis', who are friends. It is not based on a real life story. However, certain scenes are inspired by events that have occurred in my life and those of my friends. Though the film's theme is thought-provoking, it

has several light moments to entertain the audience. It will be like watching a Charlie Chaplin film," the director said.

WATCH OUT

FOR: The terrific timing of Vimal-Sivakarthikeyan, Yuvan's romantic numbers and ofcourse Pandiraj's direction.



[CLICK PLAY BUTTON TO SEE TRAILER](#)

PARADESI

CAST: Adharvaa, Dhansika, Vedhika

DIRECTOR: Bala

PRODUCER: Bala

BANNER: B Studios, Gemini Film Circuit

MUSIC: G.V. Prakash

GENRE: Drama

Based on an English novel Red Tea (by Paul Harris Daniel), the trailer of the film has upped the hype factor. This realistic drama narrates the real suffering of plantation workers in southern India. Adharvaa has reportedly shed 10 kilos for this film and we also hear that Bala has roped in more than 200 junior artists for this family tale. The film is shot in Salur, Manamadurai in Sivagangai district, Munnar, Talaiyar in Kerala, and the forest areas in Theni district. "My father (late Murali) and Bala sir were close. In fact, it was appa who was about to play the lead role in Sethu. But he (Murali) allowed Vikram to do the role, based on a request from Bala. So Bala sir has a lot of respect and love for appa," Adharvaa revealed. It is also heard that Dhansika survived with mere water and fruit juice for four consecutive days, to get her act right in the climax scene.

WATCH OUT FOR: The Bala effect, Adharvaa's rocking performance and GV's music.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE TRAILER](#) Needs Internet connection

DAVID

CAST: Vikram, Jiiva, Isha Sharvani, Tabu, Nassar

DIRECTOR: Bejoy Nambiar

PRODUCER: Bejoy Nambiar, Sharada Trilok

BANNER: Getaway Films, Reliance Entertainment

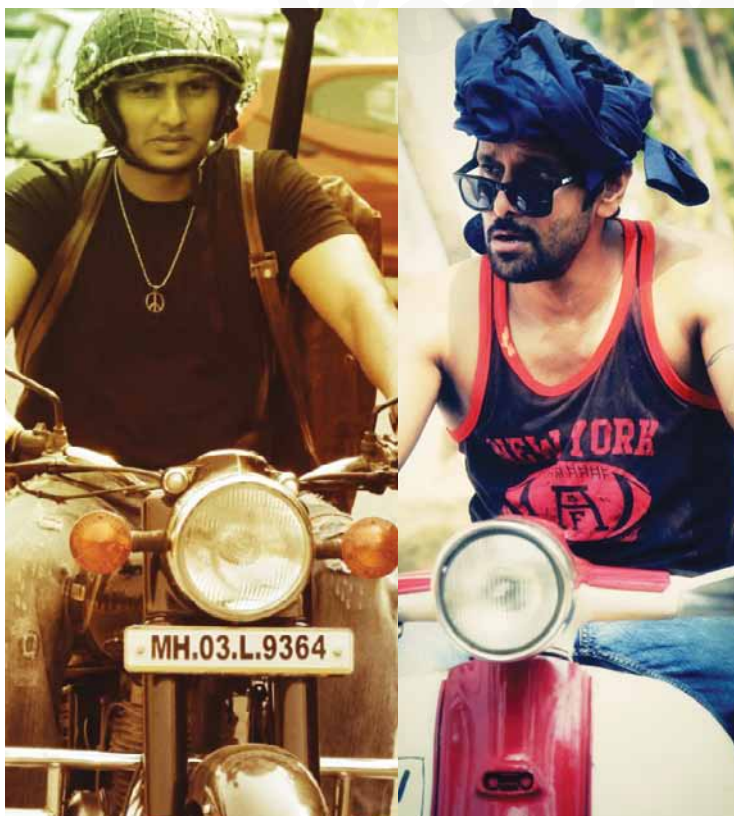
MUSIC: Modern Mafia, Bramfatura, Prashant Pillai, Remo Fernandes, Anirudh Ravichander, Maatibaani

GENRE: Action

Two lives, two stories but one name - The story revolves around the lives of 2 Davids in 2 different parts of the world in 2 different eras. Set in 1999, David (Jiiva) is a musician born into a family of devout Christians. He is a happy go lucky teenager who loses all semblance of his peaceful existence when his family gets dragged into a political issue. In 2010, 40-year-old David is a fisherman living in the small fishing village of Betul in Goa. He falls in love with the deaf and mute Roma- the only hitch is that she is to be engaged to his best friend Peter in 10 days! Both are about to take an important step in their lives which will change their destiny forever.

WATCH OUT FOR: Vikram's performance, Jiiva - the rock star, and the different story line.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PUBLIC'S OPINION
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AADHIBHAGAVAN

CAST: Jayam Ravi, Neetu Chandra

DIRECTOR: Ameer

PRODUCER: J. Anbazhagan

BANNER: Anbu Pictures

MUSIC: Yuvanshankar Raja

GENRE: Action

For the first time in his career, director Ameer is trying his hands at a complete action entertainer through Aadhi Bhagavan. The story is simple; set in Bangkok, the film revolves around the conflict between a cop and a mafia don. The cop is intent on bringing the don to justice. Neetu Chandra plays a Mumbai-born girl who works in a bar in Thailand. The film has six fight sequences and an equal number of songs by Yuvanshankar Raja. However the director's biggest challenge was to get chocolate boy Jayam Ravi transform himself to play a macho role. The film was shot over a period of two years across Thailand, Toronto, Niagara Falls in Ontario, Rajasthan, Goa, Mumbai and Chennai. Cinematography has been handled by Gurudev and Devaraj, while editing is by Ram Sudharshan. Director Ameer himself has played an important role in this flick.

WATCH OUT FOR: Jayam Ravi's macho look, Neetu Chandra's Tamil and Ameer's racy direction.



CLICK PLAY BUTTON TO SEE THE TRAILER

KADAL

CAST: Gautham Karthik, Thulasi, Arjun, Arvind Swamy
DIRECTOR: Mani Ratnam
PRODUCER: Mani Ratnam, A. Manohar Prasad
BANNER: Madras Talkies, Gemini Film Circuit
MUSIC: A.R. Rahman
GENRE: Action-Romance

Just like the deep blue sea, this Mani Ratnam flick too has different faces... The film hit the headline from the day of its launch, especially for its innovative casting, Gautham (Karthik's son) and Thulasi (Radha's younger daughter). This is what hero Gautham had to say about this dream debut, "I never thought, I will get an opportunity like this... words cannot describe that moment when Mani sir selected me to play the lead role in Kadal. He is a fantastic director."

WATCH OUT FOR: The scintillating chemistry between Gautham and Thulasi, Mani's romantic magic continues, A.R. Rahman's rocking music and the list goes on...



[CLICK HERE TO READ THE REVIEW](#) Needs Internet connection



PUTHIYA THIRUPPANGAL

CAST: Nandha, Andrea
DIRECTOR: Saradha Ramanathan
PRODUCER: TCS
BANNER: Sri Sivaselvanayagi Amman Movies
MUSIC: Vidyasagar
GENRE: Drama

Puthiya Thiruppangal, directed by Saradha Ramanathan (whose debut film Sringaram (Dance of Love) won her many awards and laurels) is next on our list. The film, produced by Sri Selvanayagi Movies, has Nandha and Andrea in the lead roles while Gautham Kurup (of Kandahar fame) plays the main villain. Noted cinematographer Madhu Ambat takes care of the camera while Vidyasagar is the music director. The film deals with child trafficking and 13-year-old Darani plays an important role. According to the director, Puthiya Thiruppangal narrates the story of a young urban youth who dreams of going to United States. But life takes a U turn and he ends up somewhere else. The film would be an intense thriller laced with many twists and turns.

WATCH OUT FOR: Madhu Ambat's camera work, Saradha Ramanathan's realistic story.

KADHAL 2 KALYANAM

CAST: Sathyan, Divya Spandana
DIRECTOR: Milind Rau
PRODUCER: Sunitha Tati
BANNER: Mirchi Movies, East Coast Entertainment
MUSIC: Yuvanshankar Raja
GENRE: Romance

Arya's handsome brother Sathya might have made his debut with Puthagam but this is his first signed project. Kadhal 2 Kalyanam, a jaunty love story, is touted to be a different Kollywood romance. The film is directed by Milind Rau, one of Mani Ratnam's assistants. So what is the story of K2K? Arul, a happy-go-lucky popular RJ at a station meets Anita, a workaholic, at his best friend's wedding. When Anita barges in and reveals that the groom is a two-timer, the wedding is called off. Arul is intrigued by Anita and tracks her down. After a few enjoyable dates, they fall in love with each other. But problems arise because of their different lifestyles and then chaos begins! So do they end up getting married? Watch out!

WATCH OUT FOR: Yuvan's rocking music, the feel good factor and the comeback of Divya Spandana.



MIRCHI

CAST: Prabhas, Sathyaraj, Anushka, Richa
DIRECTOR: Koratala Siva
PRODUCER: V. Vamsi Krishna Reddy, Pramod Uppalapati
BANNER: UV Creations
MUSIC: Devi Sri Prasad
GENRE: Action

Handsome hunk Prabhas is pinning all his hopes on this action extravaganza Mirchi, directed by Koratala Siva. Tamil actor Sathyaraj plays an important role in this flick while Nadiya is Prabhas' mother. Anushka and Richa are the leading ladies. Though the movie was completed quite some time ago, the post-production works were done slowly, to avoid a clash with the other biggies that were released, recently! Leggy lass Anushka has dubbed in her own voice for this film. Apparently, the movie's interval sequence, in which the story takes a turn, has a high voltage fight sequence that is going to be spectacular and racy. Well after the debacle of Rebel, Prabhas sure is leaving nothing to chance.



BANGARU KODIPETTA

CAST: Navdeep, Swati
DIRECTOR: Raj Pippalla
PRODUCER: Sunitha Tati
BANNER: Guru Films
MUSIC: Mahesh Shankar
GENRE: Romance

Love stories continue to change its form and shape on screen, and the latest entrant is Bangaru Kodipetta which has Navdeep and Swati in lead roles. The first look of the film, which shows Navdeep carrying Swati on his shoulders, has created a lot of buzz among audience. Swati plays the role of Bhanumati Piniseti, a 9th standard dropout, who can make anybody believe she is a Cambridge graduate with her command and fluency over English! Navdeep is Vamsi, who comes in contact with Bhanumati in connection with a robbery plan, and what happens, forms the rest of the story! So enjoy this Valentine month with a dose of both romance and crime.



VASANTHA RAGALU

CAST: Ramyakrishnan, Nagendrababu, Arthi Agarwal
DIRECTOR: Vishwa Prasad
PRODUCER: Pushpa latha

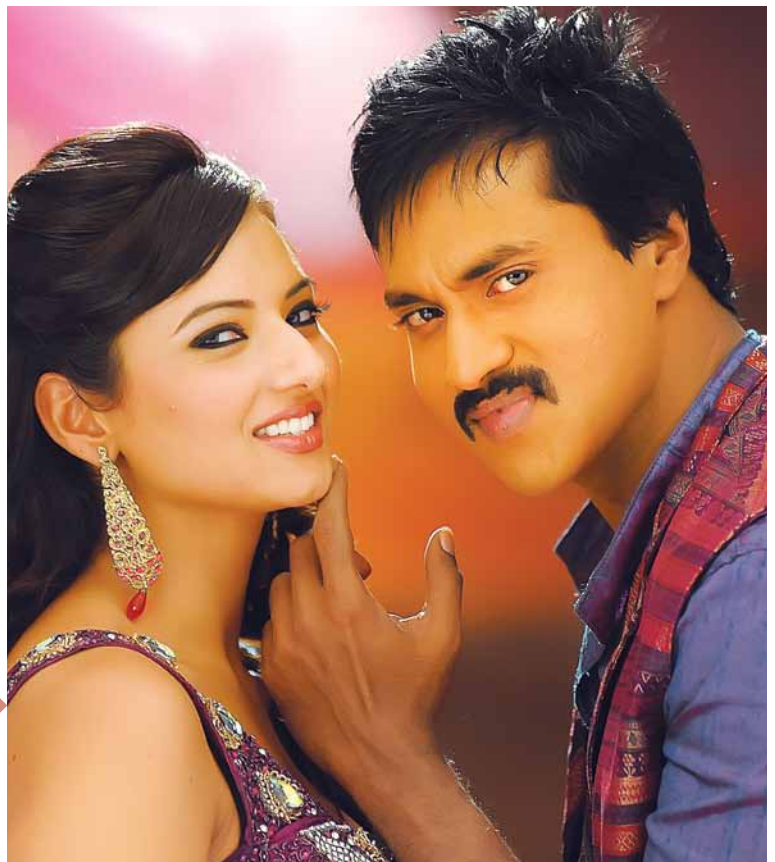
BANNER: Manasa Films
MUSIC: SPS Vasu
GENRE: Drama

The youth in everybody's lives is the most cherished moment but some lose their valuable spring due to drugs and other bad habits, and this forms the crux of Arthi Agarwal's comeback venture Vasantha Ragalu, in which she plays the role of a doctor. The film also has Ramyakrishna playing an IAS officer, Nagendrababu playing the role of a CM and Phani Raj in an important role. The starcast also includes Suttivelu, Ali, Kondavalasa, Pruthvi, Chitram Sreenu, Phaniraj, Smiley, Bandajyothy, Ashokreddy, Prabhakar and Jagadeeswari. Vasantha Ragalu is a message-oriented flick that talks about the youth of today going down the wrong path, due to various addictions!

MR. PELLIKODUKU

CAST: Sunil, Isha Chawla
DIRECTOR: Devi Prasad
PRODUCER: N. V. Prasad, Paras Jain
BANNER: Megaa Super Good Films
MUSIC: SA Rajkumar
GENRE: Drama

Comedian Sunil is back with yet another interesting flick Mr. Pellikoduku. This time, it is a remake of the Bollywood romantic flick Tanu Weds Manu. Comedian-turned-hero Sunil plays Madhavan's role, while Isha Chawla plays the role originally essayed by Kangana Ranaut. This is the second time Sunil and Isha Chawla have teamed up after their successful film Poola Rangadu. Directed by Devi Prasad, the film also features actors Ali, Dharmavarapu Subramanyam, L.B. Sriram, A. Prasad and M.S. Narayana. However the team feels that the Telugu version will be superior than the original one.



LOKPAL

CAST: Mohanlal, Kavya Madhavan, Meera Nandan
DIRECTOR: Joshiy
PRODUCER: Vijayans, S. L. Vimal Kumar
BANNER: Happy & Ruby Cinemas
MUSIC: Ratheesh Vegha
GENRE: Political Thriller

After almost 22-years, the successful trio of Mohanlal-Joshiy-SN Swamy is teaming up for this action entertainer. Fight against corruption is the main thread of Lokpal. Also in the starcast are Kavya Madhavan, Meera Nandan, Manoj K. Jayan, Thambi Ramaiah, Thalaivasal Vijay, Saikumar, Krishna Kumar and many others. The film centres on Nandagopal (Mohanlal) who runs a restaurant during the day time and turns as an undercover social activist in the night.



CELLULOID

CAST: Prithviraj, Mamta
DIRECTOR: Kamal
PRODUCER: Kamal, Ubaid
BANNER: Prime Time Cinema
MUSIC: M. Jayachandran
GENRE: Drama

Celluloid, is a realistic drama based on the life story of J.C. Daniel, the pioneer of Malayalam cinema. Prithviraj will be seen as Daniel and Mamta Mohandas is playing his wife, Janet. The film is particularly based on the novel Nashta Naayika by Vinu Abraham (which details the tragic story of Rosie) and the biography of J. C. Daniel by Chelangatt Gopalakrishnan. Chandni, Sreenivasan, Nedumudi Venu, Siddique and Irshad also have important roles in this film.



NADODIMANNAN

CAST: Dileep, Archana Kavi, Ananya
DIRECTOR: Viji Thampi
PRODUCER:
BANNER: Chithram Movies
MUSIC: Vidyasagar
GENRE: Comedy

Padmanabhan (Dileep) earns his living by taking part in political meetings and rallies, however he doesn't have any inclination to any parties. A series of events turns his life upside down and he gets elected as the mayor. His conflicts and attempts to cleanse the society form the rest of the story. Bollywood actor Sayaji Shinde plays the main villain.



DAVID AND GOLIATH

CAST: Jayasurya, Anoop Menon, Soumya
DIRECTOR: Rajeev Nath
PRODUCER: Sudeep Karat, Arun Nair, Sreekumari
BANNER: Chaya Films
MUSIC: Ratheesh Vegha
GENRE: Drama

David and Goliath is a story from the Bible, which is about a giant Philistine warrior defeated by the young David, the future king of Israel. The movie is a modern interpretation of the same story, which deals with the concept of the strong and weak, and has Jayasurya playing David while Anoop Menon appears as Goliath. The film was earlier stayed, as one of the producers of the film had approached the court claiming sole authority of it.



RED WINE

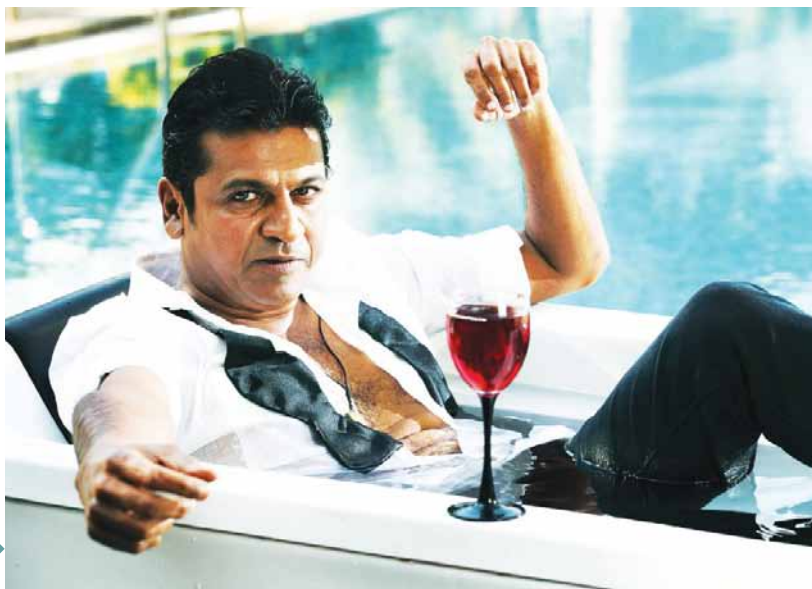
CAST: Mohanlal, Fahad Fazil, Asif Ali, Meera Nandan
DIRECTOR: Salam Bappu
PRODUCER: A.S Gireesh Lal
BANNER: Gowri Meenakshi Movies
MUSIC: Bijibal
GENRE: Thriller

Anoop (Fahad) is a responsible citizen and gets involved in many social causes while Ramesh (Asif Ali) is least bothered about others. Though they share different principles and beliefs, a particular event will bring them together and it is Ratheesh (Mohanlal), who will play the catalyst. Meera Nandan, Saiju Kurup, Suraj Venjaramoodu, TG Ravi, Anoop Chandran, Jaikrishnan are among the starcast.

ANDHAR BAHAR

CAST: Shivarajkumar, Parvathi Menon
DIRECTOR: Phaneesh S Ramanathapura
PRODUCER: Rajanish, Prasad, Ambarish Avinash, Bhaskar, Srinivas
BANNER: Legends International Group
MUSIC: Vijay Prakash
GENRE: Action

Shivanna's long awaited Andhar Bahar, directed by debutant Phaneesh, is a high-voltage action entertainer. Parvathi Menon plays the leading lady. Arundathi Nag is coming back to Kannada films with this flick, in which she plays Shivanna's mother. According to Shivarajakumar this will be one of his best works, till date. Acclaimed singer Vijaya Prakash is scoring the music, MS Ramesh is the dialogue writer, Shekar Chandru handles the camera and Johny Harsha edits the film.





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RAJANI KANTHA

CAST: Duniya Vijay, Aindrita Ray

DIRECTOR: Pradeep Raj

PRODUCER: K. Manju

BANNER: K Manju productions.

MUSIC: Arjun Janya

GENRE: Drama

Duniya Vijay is Rajani Kantha! In this film, he plays a double role, Rajani and Kantha, in which one of them will have a cleft lip. The film's plot lies in how people with this condition deal with the jibes that come their way and emerge stronger. Coincidentally Vijay is a huge fan of Superstar Rajinikanth too. Vijay has assured that Rajani Kantha is a complete family film and will not have the high-voltage drama or gore that has been the mainstay of his earlier films.

ATTAHASA

CAST: Kishore, Arjun, Vijayalakshmi

DIRECTOR: A.M.R. Ramesh

PRODUCER: A.M.R. Ramesh, V. Srinivas, Jagadeesh

BANNER: Akshaya Creations, Sai Sri Cinemas, S Lad Entertainment

MUSIC: Sandeep Chowta

GENRE: Drama

Notorious sandalwood smuggler and dacoit Veerappan's life history is being made into a film by director A.M.R. Ramesh of Kuppi and Kadhalar Kudiyiruppu fame. The film will chronicle Veerappan's youth, his entry into smuggling, his rise as a dacoit, his love life, and finally his death at the hands of special police team. Kishore (of Vennila Kabadi Kuzhu fame) is playing the lead role as Veerappan while Arjun and Ravi Kalai will play Vijayakumar and Senthamarai Kannan respectively.



GIRI MOVIE MAKERS

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SHIVAKUMAR PARAVOOR., SILVASTAR, AJAYAKUMAR. A, ARUN,





THE REVIEW

Kamal Haasan's Vishwaroopam has been making headlines ever since its launch either for the DTH release or being anti-Islam... The film released across the globe except Tamil Nadu with much fanfare. Vishwaroopam is Kamal Haasan's most ambitious project, written and directed by the legend himself. It also stars Pooja Kumar, Andreah, Shekar Kapur and Nassar in important roles.

THE PLOT: A Kathak exponent, Viswanath (Kamal Haasan) is always surrounded by beautiful women, and one of them is the pretty Andreah... This leads to trouble, as Dr Nirupama (Pooja Kumar), begins to suspect her hubby Viswanath's character. Nirupama marries green card holder Vishwanath to pursue her research in the States. She later decides to hire a detective to know more about him... At this point, the detective gets killed by the Al-Qaeda, who are planning to plant a nuclear bomb in

New York... And the irony, Viswanath is well aware of the plan because he has a connection with the terrorist group's head Omar (Rahul Bose). Who is Viswanath? Watch out...

THE TECHNIQUE: The movie has an interesting storyline which is well supported by technical brilliance. Music by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy is perfect for the genre. The film ends on an interesting note, which leads to a knot for a sequel. The film will continue till the end of Omar or Viswanath... Rahul Bose is amazing in the role of a terrorist. Kamal Haasan, as always, is brilliant. Pooja Kumar is a new find, who fits the bill perfectly. Sanu Varghese's cinematography is brilliant. But the editing could have been better to increase the pace of the film. The fight sequences are brilliant... The first half is shot completely in the US.

VISHWAROOPAM CAN EASILY BE RATED AS ONE OF THE FINEST THRILLERS IN INDIAN CINEMA.

ONE MOVIE BECAME THE CENTRE OF A HUGE CONTROVERSY NOT JUST IN TAMILNADU BUT THE WHOLE OF INDIA. THE MEDIA WENT INTO A SUPER SPIN AS EVERY TV CHANNEL AND NEWSPAPER HAD JUST ONE THING TO TALK ABOUT... KAMAL HAASAN'S VISHWAROOPAM

THE CONTROVERSY

Being in the making for sometime, Kamal Haasan fans had been eagerly awaiting the release of Vishwaroopam. Ever since its trailer launch, the fans of Ulaganayagan had waited with bated breath. Then came the first roadblock!

Kamal announced that he would premiere his movie on the DTH platform. Theatre owners from all quarters opposed the move, but the actor was determined. Most DTH service providers came on board and promotions and registrations started for the same. But just before the premiere, the release date of the movie was deferred. Vishwaroopam was to hit screens on January 25, with a premiere in Los Angeles. The DTH release was postponed.

While things seemed to be moving on course for the release, out of the blue some fringe Muslim groups opposed the release and the TN government stayed the release of the movie for 15 days (The Censor Board had already okayed the film, as had other nations with Muslim communities). Kamal Haasan was in LA for the premiere. As the whole world and all other South Indian states saw the release of the magnum opus, the Tamil Nadu audience was deprived of the movie.

Kamal moved court to challenge the 15-day ban. He won, but the order was immediately over turned the next day. A saddened and deeply hurt Kamal addressed the media. He said that if the situation continued he may be forced to leave Tamil Nadu and maybe even India. "I am fed up!" These words echoed the pain and anguish of an artist who had dedicated his all for his art. Within a few hours of his announcement, fans from all over turned up in his support. The fans who had continued to stand by the actor all this time, came out to voice their solidarity. Film personalities came to meet the star and assure that they were by his side. It has to be mentioned here that Rajinikanth, Bharathiraja and Prakashraj vociferously voiced their support to Kamal since the issue began. Of course there were voices of support from some quarters of Bollywood as well. As we go to print, the release of the movie still hangs in limbo. The Hindi version has also hit the screens to an overwhelming response. Meanwhile, we've come to understand that the State Govt. had to consider some serious issues, which were the deciding factors for their stand. Fair enough - now we wait for their official statement to hear their side of the story...

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS WHOLE ISSUE. SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH US ON WWW.GALATTA.COM.

STAR SUPPORT

Prakash Raj @prakashraaj

I wanted a hero in my profession. After years I have found one. Kamal hassan. Take a bow. At last I have seen a man.

Javed Akhtar @Javedakhtarjadu

what is happening to Kamal's film is absolutely unacceptable .those who believe in freedom of expression should protest.

Jiiva @Actorjiiva

I concur... Kamal sir... V stand up for u .. As a person n by profession v al look up to u.. U deserve JUSTICE.....totally.

Chakri Toleti @ChakriToleti

Jan 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated. Jan 30, 2013 an artist's freedom of speech/ expression was assassinated.

Khushbu Sundar @khushsundar

This man is so composed n poised..wonder where he gets his strength from 2 take so much yet remain sane..#KamalHaasan,take a bow..I salute u

Salman Khan @BeingSalmanKhan

The south actors shld go to the cinema halls whr film was to b released in his support n insist that they wanna c the film

Siddharth @Actor_Siddharth
Heartbreaking to see the greatest Tamil actor of all time talking about leaving Tamil Nadu, about bankruptcy and about unfair persecution.

Radikaa Sarathkumar @realradikaa

Lot of emotions flying around,there is a great actor who needs his creation and hardwork released, we work silently but strongly towards it.



CLICK THE PLAY BUTTON TO LISTEN TO KAMAL HAASAN'S EMOTIONAL OUTBURST TO THE VISHWAROOPAM ISSUE

THE REEL QUESTION

Rearrange the pieces to complete the image. Send in the correct order of the pieces and identify the movie.



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2. Sunaina Jairam, Chennai
3. Vanyashri Rani, Madurai

Answers to the above contest will be published in the next issue of Galatta Cinema. You can send your entries to us at: Galatta Cinema Contest, Post Box No. 7166. Chennai - 600 102 or email to contests@galatta.com

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FOR THE LOVE OF A woman

Sugar coated. Honey kissed. Buttery, creamy, colourful and dreamy. That's just one half of it! There's the other side that prickles from time-to-time! But that's the complete package: the free-flowing pristine waters and the slippery rocks along the shores... That's what being in love is all about - taking the good and the bad and creating a magical symphony that will last a life-time. On and off screen our lead ladies are desirable divas. They have the heroes chasing after them with dialogues in tow, when the camera is rolling. And then they have their fans going crazy when the projector starts running! KAANCHAN PRASHANTH presents a closer look at some of our hot faves on the big screen and the mad love that envelopes these lovelies...

crazy stupid love . **love bytes** . an affair to remember . **the buzz** . star talk . **hmmmm** . wishlist



No trash. Only Trisha!

Just look at her. It's over a decade since the shy Miss Chennai winner made her filmy debut. And so many reels and rumours later, she still manages to keep our loving...

crazy stupid love

Jessie drove Karthik nuts in Vinnaihaandi Varuvaayaa. But she was crazy herself when she walked down the aisle only to say NO to the groom family-picked for her! That's how crazy love makes a girl!

an affair to remember

Trisha and Ajith make a handsome couple, but somehow it's with Vijay that the sparks fly wild! Filmy Cupid took his best shot, and four love stories got made with Trisha & Vijay in the lead.

hmmmm...

The tabloids went crazy last year 'exposing' the Trisha-Rana Daggubati Love Express! But our lady remained unfazed, as always. She didn't care one bit and the rumours died a natural death. A decade in the media has taught her well! What's the harm in keeping company with a good buddy; and is it so bad to fall in love in the process?

photography: sunder ramu

TRISHA



***Eyes on the prize.
Nayantara!***

Undeterred by personal set-backs. Unjaded by the dazzle of showbiz. Nayan walks the shores at her own pace on her own terms. We love a woman of such grit and determination.

love bytes

We know what kind of celluloid love she professes. But in reality what does she believe in? "It is my belief that there is no such thing as love at first sight. It's usually attraction! But friendship that grows into love has both magic and strength, both qualities that make for a super romantic relationship," she opines. Let's hope she finds that love soon.

star talk

Nayan is a Scorpion on the Sun chart. So what insight does her sun sign give us on her romantic inclinations? Well, Linda Goodman says she needs someone generous, affectionate and loving to give her a sense of security. And in return she will give passion and absolute devotion.



photography: karthik srinivasan

NAYANTARA



Clueless! Anushka Shetty

When she walks into a room, she has absolutely no idea on the impact she makes! She is oblivious to that fact that she is drop-dead gorgeous and that men are falling like flies!

an affair to remember

Well, it may have lead to some unsavory rumours but Nagarjuna and Anushka look smashing together. And it's their on-screen chem that prompted the off-screen chaos!

hmmmm

She's not been caught red-eyed and woozy at an after-party. She's not lost her cool and ranted at the media. But she did find herself at the centre of some nasty rumours.

First she was linked up with Nagarjuna, and soon after that with his son Naga Chaitanya! Sr. Nags who has battled through scandals and scams in his younger days, and has learned to keep mum, was himself irked by these unbecoming rumours. He politely requested the media to respect the lady and back off!



photography: sunder ramu

ANUSHKA



 TAAPSEE

the foot tapping beats of Taapsee!

Irene in all her Anglo-Indian awkwardness waltzed into our hearts. We love that big bubbly grin and that sombre sexy look as well.

love bytes

"Nope. I'm not in a relationship. I'm too busy working to fall in love!" We've heard that one before, but this was part of her response when her name was dragged into trouble last year.

hmmmm

She's new to the South and brand new to the workings of showbiz. So when she was linked-up with her co-star and then with another actor, and there was word about a scuffle in her name, she just had to clear the air. "I am not in a relationship with anyone. Please let me work in peace. It's the character of a girl in question and it's sad to see someone trying to spoil it for their own selfish motives," she fumed.

the buzz

And while the rumours are dead and buried, Taapsee is alive and kicking! Coming up this year she has Gundello Godari (Telugu), Chashme Baddoor (Hindi) and Valai (Tamil) co-starring Ajith and Arya.

photography: sunder ramu



SHRUTI

rhythm correct? Shruti perfect!

This songbird is every bit daddy's girl but equally a chip of the old block! As much as she coos about Appa in her interviews, she doesn't go whining to him when she makes a miscalc. She's got his good looks and his steely nerves. And it's always interesting to be in love with a feisty lady!

crazy stupid love

We've seen the lead lady get a slap from daddy or even her beau. But when she left her palm print on Dhanush's face in 3, she took us by surprise! But given her brazen outlook, it seemed quite in character!

hmmmm

3 was quite a ride. And for the lead pair it was dust laden long after the movie was released.

The alleged stormy romance between Dhanush and Shruti was the talk of the town.

But looks like it was hollow noise afterall. He is still happily married to Aishwarya and Shruti is busy keeping her mind on cinema.

the buzz

She's got two biggies in B-town this year: Nikhil Advani's D-Day and Prabhudeva's Ramaiya Vasta Vaiya.

photography: sunder ramu

honey girl on the prowl! Hansikaaaah!

She's pretty. She's sassy. She's the apt bubbly girl of Indian cinema. Like a soothing spot of sunshine on a rainy day....

an affair to remember

She seemed every bit at ease in the romantic flick Engeyum Kadhal. There seemed to be an interesting chem there with Jayam Ravi.

hmmmm

But even before we've seen the working relationship she shares with STR (her co-star in Vaalu and Vettai Mannan) we heard rumours that they were in llllllove! Nope, not the case she quickly clarified!



HANSIKA



***Desirable. Delectable.
Tamannaah!***

You just can't help drowning in the rich, creamy fair, flawlessness of Tamannaah...

love bytes

She was barely out of school when she made her acting debut. So while it might seem like she's marriage ready, Tamannaah thinks there are a good eight to ten years for that to happen!

an affair to remember

She's acted with most of the big guys in Tamil and Telugu, but we think she scored a full hundred with her 100% Love co-star Naga Chaitanya.

the buzz

Tamannaah's not to be seen around Chennai and Hyderabad lately. That's because she's been busy with her Hindi flick Himmatwala which will release shortly.

in love with Ileana... always...

It's all to do with those graceful hips. Nobody can deny it. In the pendulum motion of those dangerous curves she has us all mesmerised!

love bytes

She too was in love once. And she too had her heart broken. But that has not taken away her faith in love. In a press meet to promote her movie Barfi(Hindi) Ileana revealed what she wanted from her man: honesty, loyalty, intelligence, a sensitive ear and a strong shoulder to lean on.

an affair to remember

Pretty pretty Ileana shares some great on-screen chemistry with Allu Arjun. There were sparks flying all over the place in last year's hit Julayi.

star talk

Born on August 7th, Ileana is the Lioness. Yep, this Leo lady is a strong but sensitive lover. She needs her space, but her loyalties will never change.





Candy Kisses.. Kajal Agarwal...

She did put on the those boxing gloves in Thuppakki, but that was just a-blink-and-a-miss. We only remember her big smiles and girly giggles!

love bytes

It doesn't surprise us when she says she was flooded with love letters when she was studying. But Kajal has no faith in the love affairs that spring in school and college. She's the right age for romance but she has no time! For now it's strictly scripted by the directors!

an affair to remember

Kajal's best on-screen lover is Ram Charan Tej. Their love-story that passed through two lifetimes, seeped into reality - but only as rumours! Wishful thinking of ardent fans, maybe!

KAJAL

photography: g. venket ram



photography: sunder ramu



Baptized with Desi love!

She was born and brought-up in the UK, but it's in India she found true love... The love of the people! And the more we look at her, the more she feels like that super hot desi gal who lived next door!

love bytes

There's an honesty in Amy's eyes and sweetness in her words, that just makes her the perfect target for cupid's arrow! She's ready for love and the baggage it comes with. "I'm just a girl who loves to be loved and loves to love back! What's wrong with that?" Nothing at all....

the buzz

We were surprised to see this pretty Brit in Madarasapattinam. We thought it was a one-off thing. But we were wrong. She's hot property in South Indian cinema or that's what we infer from the fact that she is Vikram's lady lead in director Shankar's !!



photography: Jay & Mano



Priya Anand, Princess Lovely!

There's that unmistakable American twang in her words. But there's an equally powerful Tamil girl warmth, that makes this NRI simply lovable...

an affair to remember

She's just doing the rounds in tinseltown, but we think her best on-screen lover till date is Siddharth in 180. She was in her element and he matched her charm.

hmmmm

Nope! Nothing here! She has just completely escaped the rumours and scandals. "The media has been very kind to me! But that's probably because of the way I am. I don't party. No boozing. No smoking. So there isn't much to make a story about," she laughs. Very safe indeed!

the buzz

Priya has a couple of movies lined-up for this year. First up there is the Tamil flick Ethir Neechal. Then the Hindi movies Rangrez and Fukrey.

PRIYA ANAND



***She's something...
nothing short of
perfection...***

Samantha is all of a sudden the most wanted girl in South cinema. Is it the li'l pout or the sparkle in her eyes that's got her pic on everyone's wallpaper?

love bytes

"I am a good girl, you know, really the girl next door. I have a great family, friends and I too have dreams, desires and an open heart. I keep it all open and honest, but discreet. I've experienced love and I love being with the people I love, but I don't go about making headlines out of it," she says. Very single now, but romance is not ruled out!

an affair to remember

She played the same character twice last year when she starred in Gautham Vasudev Menon's Neethane En Ponvasantham (NEP) and its Telugu version Yeto Vellipoyindhi Manasu (YTM). She looked good with Jiiva, but with Naani it was sheer magic!

photography: sunder ramu

AMALA PAUL →



When simple turned sexy...

It's quite hard to believe that the Amala Paul of Vettai is the same lass who had us in tears in Mynaa. What a transformation! Good for you girl!

an affair to remember

Mynaa is one movie you will never forget. It's the kind of love-story that stays with you forever. Amala was one with the character and the way she vibed with her hero Vidharth was amazing in that rural backdrop. But when she revamped her look, she fit Arya's on-screen lover perfectly.

hmmmm

Amala played a supporting role in Deiiva Thiirumagal. But it was rumoured that her bit was much more in reality! That there was a romance abrew between her and the director! She deftly trashed the rumours and got on with her life. A few rumours can't thwart our lead ladies these days! They are tougher and that much more lovable!

SCENE

ABOUT TOWN

Movie launches, music releases, openings, success meets, premieres and more... South cinema had its share of star studded events. For more pics and videos of these events and more log on to www.galatta.com.



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COLORS SWATHI AT RADIO MIRCHI



VETADU VENTADU PLATINUM DISC LAUNCH



LOVE LIFE PRESS MEET



DANDUPALYAM SUCCESS MEET



BACK BENCH STUDENT TEAM AT SREENIDHI COLLEGE



VAMSI SREEYAS CHITRA MOVIE LAUNCH



SHADOW PRESS MEET



ANJALI LAUNCHES WOMAN'S WORLD SHOWROOM



CHIRANJEEVI FELICITATES PADMA SHRI DR. D. RAMANAIDU



VIJETA AUDIO LAUNCH



CORPORATE INDIA HEALTH CHALLENGE BATTLE OF THE BULGE



TERRA NIZAM AUDIO LAUNCH



SREE LEELA MOVIE PRODUCTION NO 1



BALUPU TRAILER AND LOGO LAUNCH



ACTRESS MADHULAHNADAS AT INAUGURATION OF TRENDZ FASHION & LIFESTYLE EXHIBITION CUM SALE



BISCUIT MOVIE LAUNCH

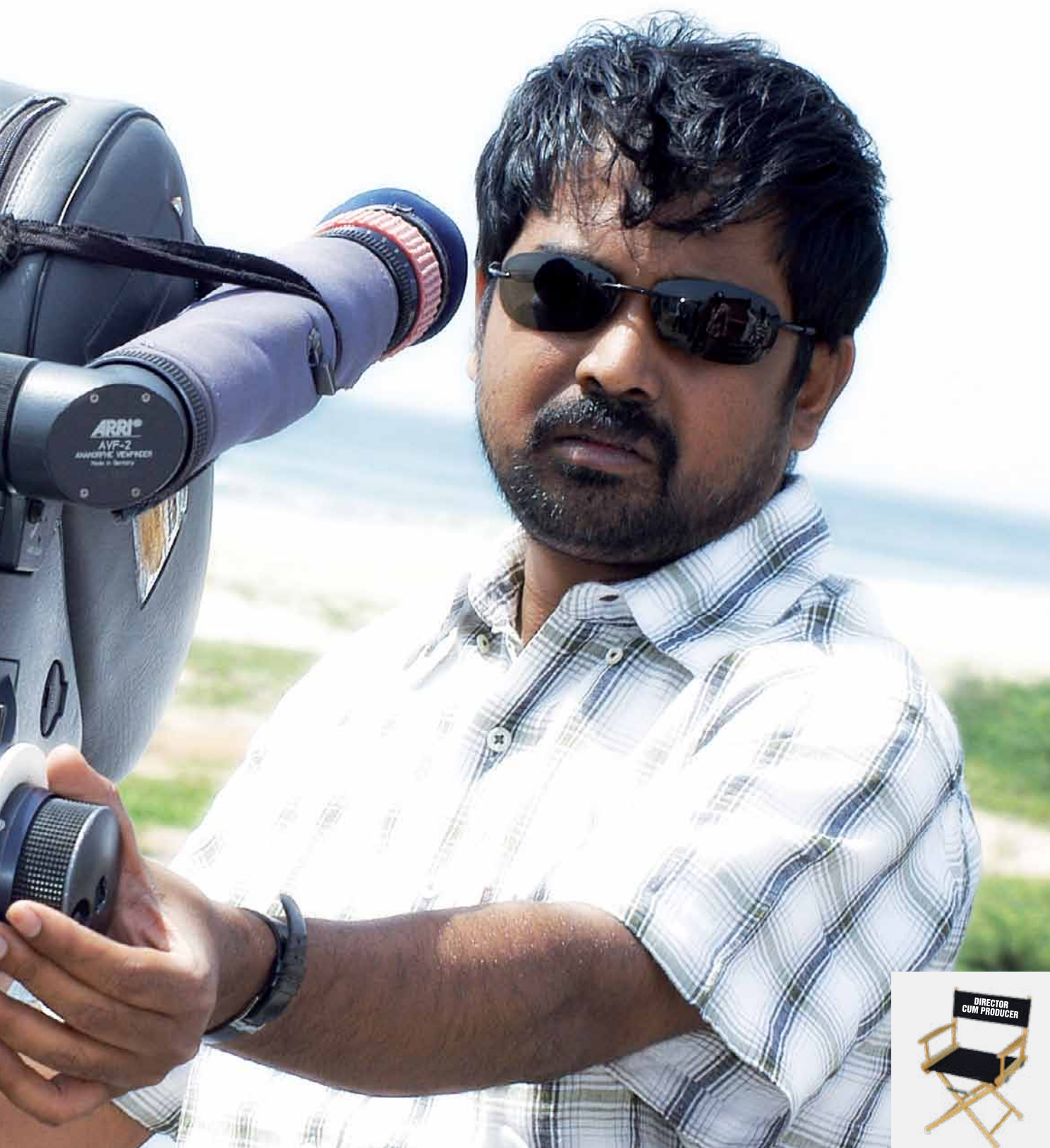


JABARDASTH PRESS MEET

SOARING LIKE THE EAGLE

N. LINGUSAMY
IN CONVERSATION WITH
SWARUPA PILLAAI

One of our best new generation successful commercial directors; who has hundred percent consistency with the way he delivers for the box office, speaks about his magnum opus with Suriya (being produced under his home banner Thiruppathi Brothers) as he moves on to the next level as a visionary in Tamil Cinema. One of the rare directors who gives equal importance to sound effects, music and cinematography as to the script, he has no qualms in admitting the mistakes he made in his twelve year long career, and his optimism and energy continues to remain the same with bigger and better targets for the future.



as DIRECTOR



What inputs did you give to 'Kumki' as a producer?

I concentrated on turning it into a quality project alongside the numbers. It earned us multiple times at the box office against the investment we made.

Vikram Prabhu and Gautham Karthik are being launched at the same time; the latter with Mani Ratnam. Was there pressure to deliver?

No, absolutely none. Veteran actor Prabhu gave us complete freedom and we could mould Vikram into an actor with our vision (producer and director). He didn't interfere even a wee bit with the way his son Vikram was to be projected on screen. It was one of the reasons that the film shaped up well.

You're a director yourself. So what was the working relationship you shared with Prabhu Solomon?

He sets the mood very well for a film; and he has a great vision.

Describe cinematographer Nirav Shah from your point of view and his vision having worked with him on 'Sandakozhi' and 'Vettai'.

He's full of energy and always has a positive mood on the sets. He's a director's cinematographer, but if he has any inputs with shots and dialogues and the direction with which it's turning, he won't hesitate to tell me. It works well for the scenes because of this. He doesn't get worked up at all, despite the various circumstances we are under while we shoot a film.

A.M. Ratnam gave you a huge break with 'Run', followed by a big budgeted 'Bheema'. What is unusual about him as a producer?

He is someone who asks me why I shot a song in four days instead of six. He is the rare creative producer I have come across in the Film Industry who understands so much about storytelling and the way it has to be brought to the screen. He is a great visionary for cinema who doesn't like to compromise on the final output.

What makes you think the story you freeze on is the right story?

I don't like to say anything complicated in the script (like going back in time and forward) (Smiles). My story has to be clear and simple. And it's about the way my actors interact with me and vice versa through the subject I pick.

You are one of the best commercial

directors we have today. What different subjects are you looking towards in the near future?

To me each one of my new stories/films is a new discovery. Earlier I would have to work with budget restraints because I worked for other producers. Today with my home banner, I have the opportunity to explore bigger scales of vision with the way my stories are told. There is plenty of world cinema that I watch and think that at some point of time I should get there to that league.

On Ajith as an actor in 'Ji'...

He's a dedicated director's actor and doesn't question me on my story or retakes. When he heard the script from me, he was sure it would not work for him and that it would fail at the box office. It was I who convinced him to play the role and that the film would turn out better than he expected. It was a mistake.

Late Cinematographer Jeeva and you had a good wavelength at work (Run). How did this happen?

He is magic personified and it's a real tragedy that death took him so early. He knows how to use the crane in a vast stretch of empty landscape in a jiffy. He has immense quality. He was quoted as saying in an interview that I was one of the best directors that he has worked with. I consider that to be a gold star in my filmography.

What happened to 'Sandakozhi 2'?

I think one part sealed the essence of the story. I didn't think it was right to have progressed with Part Two because the vision was not right to continue an elaborate story. I was not even sure about who I would cast as the villain. It's a good decision as a director not to have made the film.

You mould all your actors into the big league commercial slot. How do you work with them?

I think the stories/scripts work with all the actors I pick. For 'Run', the 'chocolate boy' image with Madhavan worked great; with 'Paiyaa', Karthi had to break away from his 'Paruthiveeran' image. With Karthi I admit I was a little nervous in changing his image and about the outcome of his performance, because he had to deliver plenty of minute details with facial expression and body language for the role.

You bring music to the screen very well with sound effects in all your films. Why is it important to give a lot of scope to these areas?



Let's talk about 'Vettai' and what was special to you as a director.

It was the simple moment in the story of the elder brother being afraid to face thugs even as a cop; and the younger brother protecting his brother with the same thugs. It was simple, effective and had a spark to me as a writer and director.



What prompted you to accept 'Vazhakku En 18/9' to produce?

I think variety is important. Every new story is variety. It's picking up awards everywhere now; recently at a Film Festival in France too.

'Paiyya' took Karthi to the next level as a commercial actor alongside music director Yuvanshankar Raja. It was a unique film with technical vision. Please elaborate. Whose dream project was it?

It was the simple story and the simple way that this story was told that sealed it. I wrote the script and envisioned the whole film myself.

This is the first time you will be working with Surya. How differently will you approach him as an actor?

A: To me, he is the next best actor after Kamal Hassan. To begin with I'm Surya's fan. How I blend this fan following with his potential as an actor will be my biggest challenge. He's extremely dedicated when it comes to script reading and moulding himself for the role. I have to work a lot towards it because we have a lot of new directors with immense talent entering the Film Industry. Films like 'Pizza' have taken a fresh approach and a lot of small budget films are doing well at the box office. Those who have been in the industry for years have to gear up for the competition (smiles).

Does your production affect your direction, as Surya's film is currently being done in your home banner?

No, it does not. My brother N.Bose handles all the numbers. I concentrate completely on the script and vision as a director.

You have the eye to pick excellent cinematographers (Jeeva, Nirav Shah, Madhi etc). How do you choose them?

I like visualizing my script for the screen. When I write my stories, I also visualize every scene and song on how it should look. Imagine we write a great story and it is not visually brought to the screen well. My cinematographers understand my visualization and take my own visualization to the screen alongside theirs. It's a lot about the feel good factor and the end result is exotic with colours and frames. A film has to look beautiful besides having great storytelling. Directors like Mani Ratnam and Ram Gopal Varma inspire me a lot with the way they visualize each of their films and songs. I like to look at their work and follow visual parameters.

Who is the cinematographer for your film with Surya?

Madhi. He has worked with me in 'Paiyaa'.

In terms of vision and budget, what story do you want to work on?

Films like 'Seven Samurai' and 'Singing in the Rain' are my inspiration in terms of vision. Indian films like 'Sholay', 'Lagaan' and 'Magadheera' (Telugu) are epic in quality too. On the lighter side, I'd like to explore films like 'Munnabhai MBBS' and 'Avvai Shanmugi'. I like racy scripts like the Bourne Series and John Woo's films. There's plenty of world cinema I watch and hope for the day that I would be able to work in their league with a Tamil story. There's still a long road ahead of me as a director.

I write and shoot my scenes with sound effects and music playing in the background in my mind. If it's a fight in the subway, when two guys are beating each other up, I hear the sound effects of the fists in my mind and on how it will be visualized for the screen. These elements have to come together right, or else how can we watch a film on screen?

Why are you choosing Allu Sirish (Allu Arjun's younger brother) to be your male lead in your film?

(Smiles). This is a first. No one has spoken to me about it yet.

Why did you think of film production to begin with?

Directors Balaji Shakhthivel and Shankar were my inspiration. Just because we are directors, it doesn't mean that we should stunt the growth and creativity of other directors who have potential. As lovers of cinema, production and direction must not have defined roles. The production house is a platform to give other scripts a chance to see the light of day.

Why do you think 'Bheema' failed?

A: It was the climax. Had I worked on the climax differently, the film would have taken a different shape altogether especially with an actor and star like Vikram in the lead.

What is unique about 'Ivan Veramathiri'; the film you are currently producing (directed by M. Saravanan of 'Engeyum Eppodhum' fame)?

A: With the title itself you should know that it's unique. I cannot say anything more because it's the director's baby and we're off records about it currently (Laughs).

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FROM *SHAKESPEARE TO*

From Shakespeare to modern cinema, theatre goers across the globe have witnessed scintillating chemistry between the lead pairs... Some of the most magical movies are brought to life by the on-screen couples and their chemistry. So this month we take a nostalgic look at couples that have sizzled on-screen or off it in Indian cinema...

TO MODERN CINEMA



DILIP KUMAR- VYJAYANTHIMALA

He was the greatest superstar of Bollywood, she was the dancing sensation and they set the screen on fire! A smile that made her eyes twinkle, Vyjayanthimala's elegance merged well with the unmatched brilliance of Dilip Kumar. They have acted together in 7 films.

FILMS:

Naya Daur, Gunga Jumna, Madhumati, Devdas, Sunghursh, Leader, Paigham.



RAJ KAPOOR-NARGIS

Undoubtedly, they were the immortal romantic pair in Indian cinema. They sizzled on the screen every time they appeared together, which left the audience craving for more. She was subtle and sensuous, he was stylish and charismatic and this 'Pyaar hua ikraar hua' couple had a soft corner for each other in real-life too. They have acted together in 16 films.

FILMS:

Ag, Andaz, Barsaat, Pyaar, Awaara, Aah, Shree 420, Chori Chori. Bewafa.

RAJESH KHANNA – SHARMILA TAGORE

He was the first superstar of Hindi cinema, she was the bubbly sensation and they had an extraordinary chemistry onscreen. Khanna and Sharmila have acted together in 8 films and all were super hits.

FILMS:

Aradhana, Amar Prem, Maalik, Safar, Avishkaar, Daag, Raja Rani, Chhoti Bahu.



AMITABH – REKHA

The most controversial and passionate love affairs both on and off-screen. The handsome angry young man fell for the dusky diva but their much-talked about love story always remained a mystery as both the actors never accepted it in public. They have acted together in 11 films.

FILMS:

Do Anjaane, Ganga Ki Saugandh, Suhaag, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar, Ram Balram, Mr. Natwarlal, Silsila.



DHARMENDRA- HEMA MALINI

The 'Dream girl' fell in love with the charming star on the sets of Tu Haseen Main Jawan. She apparently turned down proposals from actors like Sanjeev Kumar and Jeetendra, to marry Dharamji who was then married and had two sons. Neither age nor time has affected their love and affection for each other, both off and on-screen. They have acted together in 42 movies.

FILMS:

Sholay, Seetha Aur Geetha, Razia Sultan, Maa, Raja Rani, Azaad, Pratigya, Tum Haseen Main Jawan, The Burning Train.

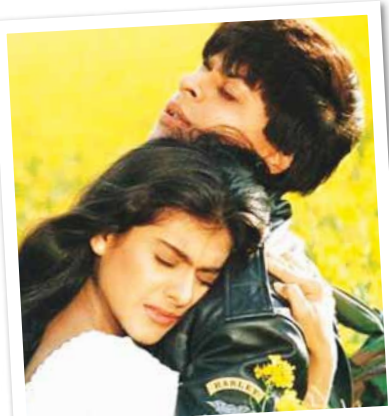
SHAHRUKH KHAN - KAJOL

Its obvious, they just rock! Probably, no other jodi in the country has the kind of charisma, elegance and likeability as they do. From Baazigar to MNIK, SRK and Kajol have redefined romance in Indian cinema.

In fact, they epitomized the spirit of love. The couple have acted together in 6 films.

FILMS:

My Name Is Khan, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, Baazigar, Karan Arjun.





P.U. CHINNAPPA- T.R. RAJAKUMARI

She was the first dreamgirl of Tamil cinema, he was one of the first major influential actors of the South and they made an extraordinary couple on-screen.

FILMS: Manonmani,
Vanasundari



SIVAJI - PADMINI

She is known for her scintillating performances and of-course he was the 'Nadigar Thilakam'... This Sivaji-Padmini team was the most popular on-screen romantic pair during the prime of the careers of both actors. They appeared together in more than 40 films, and each time the duo raised the bar. Her beauty, his charm made a perfect pair... Above all, their acting brilliance were forever immortalized in the hearts of K'town fans. Marainthirunthe Parkkum Marmam enna...the harmonious song from Thillana Mohanambal is an ideal example.

FILMS:

Thillana Mohanambal, Thiruvarutchelvar, Vietnam Veedu, Thirumal Perumai, Maragadam, Veerapandia Kattabomman, Uthama Puthran, Anbu.



NSK-MADHURAM

This real time couple, Kalaivaanar N.S. Krishnan and Madhuram, created a sensation on-screen. His message oriented comical timing was well supported by her and they shared an amazing chemistry.

FILMS: Chandralekha,
Haridas, Ambikapathy, Uthama Puthiran, Sakunthalai, Kannagi, Mangamma Sapatham, Poompavai, Raja Rajeshwari.



MGR-SAROJA DEVI

Undoubtedly, one of Tamil cinema's evergreen pairs on-screen. Their chemistry was magical... He was graceful, charismatic, stylish and was known for his electrifying stunt sequences while she complemented him perfectly with her endearing smile, twinkling eyes and unique voice modulation. They have acted together in more than 25 films. Apart from their acting excellence, both MGR and Saroja Devi created fashion trends with their unique dressing sense.

FILMS:

Anbe Vaa, Enga Veettu Pillai, Naadodi Mannan, Padagotti, Thai Sollai Thattatheey, Paasam, Thaayaikaatha Thanayan, Asai Mugam, Naan Anayittaal.



GEMINI-SAVITRI

This reel turned real-time couple was a treat to watch. He was the Kadhal Mannan, she was the Nadigayar Thilakam and they created magic. His unique style of acting, especially romantic scenes, created a craze among women in the state.

FILMS:

Kalathur Kannamma, Missiamma, Pasamalar, Maya Bazaar, Parthal Pasi Theerum, Pennin Perumai, Pathi Bhakti.



KAMAL-SRIDEVI

With their dazzling on-screen chemistry assuring box office hits, they were the most sought after pair in the 80's. They also shared a great working relationship however the pair did not work together after the award-winning Moondram Pirai. He was the handsome hunk, she was the dancing diva and they set the screens on fire. They have acted together in 25 films.

FILMS:

Guru, Neela Malargal, Kalyanaraman, Varumayin Niram Sigappu, Moondram Piram, Vaazhve Maayam, Meendum Kokila.



KARTHIK-REVATHI

They were elegant, charismatic and subtle. Karthik and Revathi became a sensation after the release of Mani Ratnam's romantic entertainer Mouna Raagam and the rest was history.

FILMS:

Deiva Vaaku, Idhaya Thamarai, Mouna Raagam, Kizhakku Vaasal.



RAJNI-SRIPRIYA

Rajinikanth, the greatest superstar of the South shared a great onscreen chemistry with the bubbly Sripriya. His brooding looks and her bold act was unique from their contemporaries. They have acted together in 28 films.

FILMS:

Billa, Annai Oru Alayam, Bairavi, Polladhavan, Aadu Puli Attam, Thai Meethu Sathiyam.



PRABHU-KUSHBOO

They are the evergreen bubbly pair of Kollywood. After the stupendous hit of Chinnathambi, the pair won the hearts of Tamil viewers and the duo acted together in many films. This is one pair in Tamil cinema, we wished they were real, such is their charisma.

FILMS:

Chinna Thambi, Chinna Vaathiyar, Dharmathin Thlaivan, My Dear Marthandam, Pandithurai, Dharma Seelan, Kizhakku Karai.

SURIYA - JYOTHIKA

They are the darlings of Kollywood... Their onscreen magic continued off-screen and today they are one of the most happiest couples (real-time) in Tamil cinema. Her bubbly looks, his expressive eyes and their magical chemistry created wonders at the box office.

FILMS:

Poovellam Kettuppar, Kaaka Kaaka, Perazhagan, Maayavi, Sillunu Oru Kaadhal.





PREM NAZIR-SHEELA

The evergreen couple of Mollywood. Prem Nazir along with Sheela hold the Guinness record for acting together consecutively in 107 films, such was their magic.

FILMS:

Ummar, Chithramela, Innele Innu, Rendu Lokam, Aachitrashalabham Parannotte.



MAMMOOTY - SUHASINI

A perfect woman for a perfect man and they were truly made for each other. He has everything that a hero needs – the looks, the voice and a very natural acting style while she complemented him in every aspect. They have acted together in 10 films.

FILMS:

Koodevide, Ente Upasan, Rakkuyilin Rajassadasil, Pranamam, Katha Ithuvare, Aarorumariyathe, Aksharangal, Aadaminte Vaariyellu.



MOHANLAL - SHOBANA

They are considered as Malayalam cinema's most charming pair on-screen. They have appeared together in more than 30 films.

FILMS:

T.P. Balagopalan MA, Thenmavin Kombathu, Nadodikattu, Minnaram, Pavithram, Pakshe, Maya Mayuram, Vellanakalude Nadu.



DILEEP - KAVYA MADHAVAN

They are often referred as the golden pair of Mollywood. The Dileep-Kavya paring has produced several big hits in Malayalam cinema. They have acted together in more than 15 films.

FILMS: Chandranudikkunna Dikhil, Thenkasipattanam, Rakshasa Rajavu, Meesa Madhavan, Thilakkam, Paappi Appacha.

NTR - JAYAPRADA

The suave, soft-spoken Jayaprada shared a great rapport with N.T. Rama Rao, the onscreen Lord Krishna. Their onscreen chemistry was so brilliant that they consistently delivered blockbusters.

FILMS:

Challenge Ramudu, Superman, Adavi Ramudu, Chanakya Chandragupta, Yamagola.



NAGARJUNA-AMALA

Undoubtedly, they are one of the most charismatic couples in the South. The prince charming is said to have fallen in love with the diva on the sets of RGV's Siva. Though the couple have appeared in only 5 flicks so far, they are considered as one of the best in the South.

FILMS:

Chinna Babu, Siva, Prema Yuddham, Kirayi Dada, Nirnayam.

KRISHNA-VIJAY NIRMALA

This reel turned real-life pair has acted together in more than 15 films. Their friendship was not sudden, it developed over time and the duo complemented each other perfectly.

FILMS:

Bezwada Bebbuli, Antham Kadidi Aarambam, Alluri Seetharama Raju, Devadasu, Manchi Vaalaku Manchivadu, Vidhi Vilasam.





RAJKUMAR - BHARATHI

Their sizzling onscreen chemistry set hearts ablaze and audiences spun their own dreams into them. They have acted together in 25 films.

FILMS:

Doorada Betta, Swayamvara, Namma Samsara, Kulagaurava, Baalu Belagithu.



VENKATESH - SOUNDARYA

Soundarya was an ideal pair for 'Machoman' Venkatesh. Discipline, consistency, experience and a willingness to embrace all kinds of roles without too much thought has been their forte. They have acted together in 6 films.

FILMS:

Priyuralu, Pavithra Bandham, Pelli Chesukundam, Raja, Jayam Manadera, Devi Putrudu.



CHIRANJEEVI-RADHA

This bubbly beauty shared a great onscreen chemistry with the megastar and they created wonders at the box office. They have acted together in more than 15 films.

FILMS:

Kodama Simham, Kondaveeti Donga, Lankeshwarudu, Rudranetra, State Rowdy, Marana Mrudangam, Yamudiki Mogudu, Puli.

ANATH NAG-LAKSHMI

Lakshmi's sensuous looks complemented Nag's versatile acting skills and they are considered an all-time greatest pair in Kannada movies. Most of their films portrayed the lives of a middle class family and this made them a household name in Karnataka. They acted together in more than 25 films.

FILMS:

Benkiya Bale, Naa Ninna Bidalaare, Ibbani Karagithu, Mudhudidha Thavare Aralithu, Makkele Devaru, Makkaliralawa Mane Thumba.



VISHNUVARDHAN- ARATHI

Aarathi's name was synonymous with Vishnuvardhan's and they went on to give many hits for Kannada film patrons. They have acted together in 7 films.

FILMS:

Hombisilu, Muiyi Ge Muiyi, Siritanakke Savaal, Naniruvude Ninagagi, Nentaro Gantu Kallaro, Makkala Sainya.

CONCLUSION

As Indian Cinema is on the threshold of completing 100 glorious years of entertaining audiences worldwide, we salute these greatest onscreen couples, who have glorified beautiful love stories... Indian cinema has always been a magical journey for lovers of cinema. The romance portrayed in Indian films have an identity that is very unique and unmatched. The vibrant sets along with the dance and songs make Indian cinema a real treat for the eyes. There is no doubt that these hit-jodis have set the screens on fire, and let's learn romance from them...

GALATTA CINEMA CATCHES UP WITH SURVEEN CHAWLA, THE GORGEOUS GIRL FROM PUNJABI FILMS, WHO WILL BE SEEN IN DIRECTOR VASANTH'S MOONDRU PER MOONDRU KADĀL! HERE ARE A FEW EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW!

GC: DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO BE IN CINEMA, OR DID IT JUST HAPPEN?

SC: Not really! I was actually a good scholar in my school days! I then changed quite a few fields, before I landed up in Mumbai. I went from Science to Arts to Commerce, and then back to Arts in College! In the middle of that is when I decided to go to Mumbai, and do films!

GC: TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR CINEMATIC JOURNEY SO FAR!

SC: I've been doing a lot of Punjabi films, since 2010. My first film was called Dharti, and it was with Jimmy Shergill. The movie was also screened at the National Film Festival at Goa, as one of the topmost regional films from our country! After that I did another Punjabi film, Taur Mittran Di! Currently, I am shooting for 3 Punjabi and 2 Hindi films!

GC: HOW IS CINEMA TREATING YOU? ARE YOU HAPPY? SCARED? OR DO YOU FEEL YOU'RE ON COURSE?

SC: There is absolutely nothing to be scared about! I believe that one fear that everyone has in life, is the fear of failure, and that happens to most of us! The only thing that I feel makes me happy and keeps me happy is working in films. On the set, I don't even carry my phone with me. I leave it behind in the caravan itself, and am completely cut off from the world. I get back to my personal world, only after we pack up! Working in films, brings me a lot of joy, as I am doing what I love to do.



I HAVE DONE ANOTHER FILM, PUTHIYA THIRUPPANGAL, WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED. BUT, MPMK WILL BE RELEASED BEFORE THAT. SO, WE COULD SAY THIS IS MY FIRST RELEASE.



THOUGH, MY OTHER FILM, PUTHIYA THIRUPPANGAL HAS NOT RELEASED YET, I LIKE THE DEPTH WITH WHICH TAMIL FILMS ARE MADE, AND WOULD LIKE TO DO A LOT OF TAMIL FILMS, BIG ONES! I WOULD ALSO LOVE TO WORK WITH VIKRAM, WHO IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITES!

SURVEEN CHAWLA

I AM ONE OF ARJUN'S BIGGEST FANS! I AM COMPLETELY IN LOVE WITH HIM! HE IS A FANTASTIC PERSON, AND SUCH A GREAT CO-ACTOR TO WORK WITH. IT'S BEEN BRILLIANT WORKING WITH HIM! HE IS JUST ABSOLUTELY OUT OF THE WORLD!

GC: BEFORE MPMK BEGAN, WERE YOU ASSOCIATED WITH THE DIRECTOR OR ANY OF YOUR FELLOW CAST MEMBERS?

SC: Not at all! In fact, I just met them at the audition! I just auditioned for this film. I think about 2012 New Year's time, when I was holidaying in Goa, Vasanth sir called me and said that he would like me to do the film! To be very honest, I was more than glad to have gotten to work with a director as reputed as him, and of such calibre. He is absolutely fantastic.!

GC: HOW WAS IT WORKING WITH DIRECTOR VASANTH?

SC: As far as I know, there are very few directors who can extract work, so perfectly! I don't know how he gets it out of me, when I am in front

of the camera. Its only when I watch the monitor do I realize what he is bringing out through me! Actually, that was when I sort of realized that I wasn't very familiar with this side of me, this expression of me, and so on! It's been quite a learning experience, working with him. Normally, if you are not familiar with a language, you tend to over react, and bring out a lot of emotion. But, when we realize that we are talking the same language that the people who are watching talk, we understand that we don't have to over react! I've learnt to be natural, and just be me. It's been wonderful, working with Vasanth sir!

GC: HAVE YOU WATCHED ARJUN'S MOVIES?

SC: Yes! I've watched a little of his Rhythm, Gentleman,

and (very apologetically) a few other movies, which I currently don't remember the names of! I feel he's rustically sexy and it just looks like he has not aged at all, since his first movie! He is super hot, and sure is giving many young heroes, a run for their money! His physique, his activeness, and literally in every aspect, he's outdone all the youngsters of today! I kept telling hm, "Sir, I absolutely love you! I am your biggest fan!"

GC: TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT THE CHARACTER THAT YOU PLAY IN MPMK! COULD YOU RELATE TO IT, OR IS IT COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM YOU?

SC: I can't reveal much about the character! But, the fire in my character is

very me! I can tell you that she's a sportsperson! The will, the determination in her, and the spirit to succeed come what may, and make the impossible - possible, resembles me very much! I like to take up challenges in my life! I've always been like that! I am quite the rebel when it comes to doing the impossible! The character is willing to do anything for love, as this movie is completely about love! It is not about love stories, but about love itself, in its purest, truest form! It was because of this that while I was shooting for the film, I was extremely passionate about every single scene and dialogue that we did! A lot of blood and sweat has gone into the making of this film, from both the director and the actors' side! I sincerely hope that all that passion is conveyed onto the screen!

GALATTA CINEMA CAUGHT UP WITH VIDYU RAMAN, THE TALENTED YOUNG ACTRESS WHO MADE HER DEBUT WITH GAUTHAM VASUDEV MENON'S LATEST RELEASE, NEETHANE EN PONVASANTHAM! HERE'S A LITTLE OF THE TETE-A-TETE FOR YOU ALL!

GC: TELL US ABOUT YOU, AND WHAT YOU WERE DOING BEFORE GETTING INTO CINEMA!

VR: For over the past 6 years, I have been very actively involved in Theatre, in Chennai! I have been working with various theatre groups, but my first stint was with Landing Stage - A huge theatre group of teenagers! I joined this group when I was in the 8th standard! From that age itself, I have been actively involved in production, backstage work with Evam and Madras Players. So, I have been both behind stage and on stage, and now, have around 7 years of theatre experience. I graduated with a degree in Visual Communication from MOP Vaishnava college.

GC: HOW DID NEP HAPPEN?

VR: When I was in the 3rd year of my college, I got a call from one of my theatre friends, asking if I would be interested in doing a Gautham Menon film! Initially, I was a little apprehensive! But my dad, Mohan Raman, was all for me going for it! So, I went to audition for the character called Jenny! When they told me about the role and the character, I decided to give it a shot, as I fell in love with the character! It was very much like me, so I didn't have to prepare much, and I could just be myself! It was great fun working with Santhanam, Jiiva, Samantha and Gautham sir! I never thought that it would get this far, but it was an awesome experience!

MY DAD IS MY FIRST INSPIRATION! HE ONLY URGED ME TO TAKE UP NEP, AND HE ALWAYS HELPS ME OUT IN THE DECISION MAKING AND OTHER THINGS!



BEING A THEATRE ACTOR, AM USED TO IMPROVISING. I DID FOLLOW THE SCRIPT, BUT IMPROVISED A LITTLE TOO! NOT EVEN ONCE DID GAUTHAM SIR TELL ME NOT TO IMPROVISE! HE JUST DESCRIBED THE SCENE AND ASKED US TO DO WHAT WE CAN DO BEST!



THE ONE COMMENT I KEEP GETTING FROM PEOPLE IS THAT, I DID A VERY NATURAL JOB IN THE FILM, AND I BELIEVE I COULD DO IT, ONLY BECAUSE OF THE FREEDOM GAUTHAM SIR GAVE ME!

GC: DID YOU THINK THAT YOUR ROLE IN NEP WOULD MAKE SUCH AN IMPACT?

VR: Not in the slightest! I just thought of going out there and doing what I can do, to my best! Getting so much praise for my role, surely is overwhelming! Just being in a Gautham Menon film with such a huge star-studded cast, and that too with Ilaiyaraaja's music, is a huge thing by itself! I felt that I had hit the jackpot, as far as debutants are concerned! I couldn't have asked for anything better! The overwhelming response is like the cherry on the cake!

VIDYU RAMAN

MANORAMA IS A BIG INSPIRATION FOR ME! I LOOK UP TO HER A LOT AND HOPE TO ACHIEVE ATLEAST 5% OF WHAT SHE HAS! AACHI HAS NOT BEEN JUST A COMEDIENNE, BUT HAS ALSO DONE A PLETHORA OF CHARACTERS, MANY EMOTIONAL ROLES, AND SO ON! I HOPE TO ACHIEVE HER LABEL ONE DAY!

GC: TELL US ABOUT THE NEP TEAM!

VR: Santhanam and me complemented each other! It was great working with him. Jiiva is an awesome guy, and a really fun person to hang out with! He was super sweet, and very down to earth! Samantha is so very nice! Though I played her friend in the movie, I didn't know much about her when we started doing the movie! But, down the line, we became good friends, and our on screen chemistry was also very natural! I played the same character Jenny, in the Telugu version Yeto Vellipoyindhi Manasu, too! My partner there was Krishnudu! Though initially I did not know even a little Telugu, I learnt the language, and dubbed for myself in the Telugu version too! Nani is adorable! The entire team, was absolutely cool! I didn't feel out of place at all!

GC: WHAT SORT OF RAPPORT DID YOU SHARE WITH SANTHANAM?

VR: Making people laugh is no joke! You have to make sure that you know the pulse of the audience, and your timing has to be perfect! Working with Santhanam was an awesome experience! He is so humble and down to earth! Despite being such a big name in the industry, he is so simple and sweet! We hit it off from day 1 of the shoot! Our rapport was really good and I think it has reflected on screen!

GC: YOU HAVE ACTUALLY DONE TWO MOVIES AT ONE GO! HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

VR: When I was first asked if I would be comfortable in Telugu, I told them that I didn't know the language, but I would sure like to give it a shot! I just did my best, and it has turned out really well! The response from Andhra is overwhelming too! I find it really happy! I am really thankful to Gautham sir, and the whole NEP team for giving me this opportunity! The confidence they instilled in me, is really wonderful!

GC: WHAT ARE THE PROJECTS ON HAND?

VR: I am accepting offers, but am yet to decide which to take up! Offers are coming in from both Tamil and Telugu, but I am just taking some time to decide which to choose! I am definitely getting into the Tamil and Telugu industries!

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DREAM DATE



with g. venket ram

TRANSLUCENT LIGHT MEETS THE ABSTRACT

G. Venket Ram's calendars have always created a lot of interest and excitement. Every time he has given us something new. In 2011, he captured South Indian celebrities along with vintage cars and bikes. In 2012, it was a bevy of actresses, at their gorgeous best; innocent and sexy at the same time. And this time he has indeed taken his calendar to a different level. Venket's work has never been this abstract or this mellifluous. Rukmini uses her sinuous body as a tool that etches the fall, sway and flow of flora in this eye-catching jungle theme. Surreal, sensual, yet dreamy. That's how we'd like our dream date to be!





JANUARY 2013

2013 BY VENKET RAM IS ALL SET TO ENCHANT YOU WITH ITS SPECTACULAR JUNGLE THEME, WITH RUKMINI VIJAYAKUMAR, AN ACCOMPLISHED DANCER, CHOREOGRAPHER AND ACTOR WHO ENCHANTS EVERY PAGE IN BRILLIANTLY CRAFTED CREATIONS BY DESIGNER FIBIN V. RAJ.



FEBRUARY 2013





MAY 2013

RUKMINI HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO FLORA AND FAUNA, AS SHE MERGES WITH NATURE, THANKS TO THE VIBRANT COLOURS, EXTRAVAGANT COSTUMES, OUT OF THE WORLD HARISTYLES, COMBINED WITH HER AMAZING BODY CONTORTIONS, VENKET CAPTURES THE BEAUTY OF THE HUMAN FORM LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

APRIL 2013

A FUSION OF ART &
HIGH FASHION, THIS
CALENDAR CAPTURES
THE BRILLIANCE OF
SPECTACULAR COLOURS
OF THE JUNGLE
CREATURES, AGAINST THE
HOMOGENOUS GREEN
FOLIAGE.

JUNE 2013





JULY 2013

WITH UNBELIEVABLE POSTURES THAT MIMIC VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF NATURE THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY RUKMINI'S INTENSE TRAINING IN DANCE AND YOGA, THIS CALENDAR IS AS BREATHTAKING AS ANY CLASSICAL PAINTING.



AUGUST 2013





SEPTEMBER 2013

WorldMags.net

GALATTA CINEMA . FEBRUARY . 2013 . pg. 95



OCTOBER 2013

EVERY PHOTOGRAPH SEEMS TO BE IN MOTION. YOU CAN FEEL THE MOVEMENT OF EVERY ELEMENT. YOU CAN SMELL THE FRAGRANCE OF FLOWERS, LISTEN TO THE RUSTLE OF LEAVES, FEEL THE COOL BREEZE ON YOUR SKIN , SEE THE SUNLIGHT HIGHLIGHTING EVERY COLOUR OF NATURE.... THAT IS THE MAGIC THAT HAS BEEN CREATED BY VENKET IN HIS 2013 CALENDAR. TRULY A DREAM DATE!

NOVEMBER 2013

THE STUNNING AND ARTISTIC COSTUMES & AVANT GARDE HAIR STYLES COME TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM RUKMINI INTO AN EXQUISITE, EXOTIC CREATURE OF THE JUNGLE. THE BACKGROUNDS & LIGHTING COMBINE TO GIVE THAT ETHEREAL, SURREALISTIC PAINTING FEEL.



DECEMBER 2013



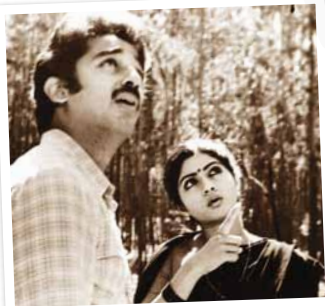
LOVE & LOSS IN THE MOVIES...

A ROSE NEVER LOOKED SO BEAUTIFUL OR SMELT SO SWEET. NOT UNTIL HE FELL IN LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME. LIFE ITSELF DID NOT HAVE SO MUCH MEANING UNTIL SHE SAID YES! TOGETHER FOREVER. UNTIL DEATH DOES THEM PART...

Whatever be the reality of it all, on celluloid, like with everything else, our story-tellers go that extra mile to tug at our heart-strings with their yarns of unbreakable romances that are robust in life and in death. But killing-off the lovers does not guarantee a hit. It's a master-stroke and only a master can pull it off...

Without going too far back into the many sombre greys of the black and white era, let's sift through some of the beautiful love stories that were ill-fated. And that list can only begin with director K. Balachander's Maro Charitra made in 1978 (remade as Ek Duje Ke Liye in Hindi, 1981). Starring Kamal Haasan, Saritha and Madhavi, the movie explored the theme of a forbidden love affair between two youngsters from two different cultural back-grounds. He being a Tamil boy and she being a Telugu girl. They honour their parents' condition to stay apart for a year to put their love to test. But one year later, on the day they must meet, both of them are battered by the bad guys and left to die. A cliff's edge is their only refuge...

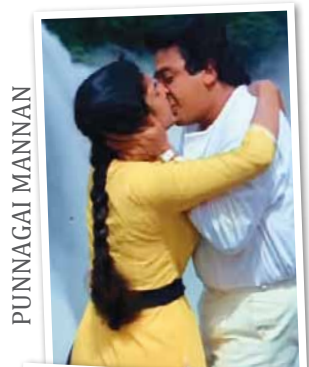
A few years later K. Balachander and Kamal came back with one more mesmerizing love story, Punnagai Mannan(1986). The movie begins with a young couple spending their last few hours engulfed and enveloped in their love. And then they take the plunge. She dies. He survives. It's the worst tragedy to survive but he does. If you were expecting a flashback, KB surprises you by not giving you one. Instead the rest of the story deals with how the guy pulls through and even manages to fall in love again. But just when he chooses to live, Death chooses



MOONDRAM PIRAI



GUNA



PUNNAIGAI MANNAN



SETHU



IDHAYAM

otherwise. While Kamal and Revathy do a fab job, it's Ilaiyaraaja's music that plays a key character in bringing their love even closer to us...

It's starting to look like a Kamal Haasan fest in Despair Land! But death or no death Balumahendra's Moondram Pirai is a tragedy nevertheless, and that too one that had most of us bawling our eyes out. A simple, kindred school master takes in a lost young girl, who has no memory of who she is. A traumatic incident has rendered her mentally ill and our good-natured hero decides to look after this child-minded orphaned woman. The love that binds them is so beautifully presented through events and songs, that when the end draws near, you just know it's too good to end well. She gets back her memory but forgets her love... Sridevi and Kamal just outdid themselves in this one...

One more must-mention Kamal flick in this genre is Guna (1991). His unshakeable belief that his Abhirami will come, his unshatterable love for the reluctant woman he has come to believe as his Abhirami and the sheer power of that love that carries the couple through the film and over the edge, just brought the tears down in torrents. The duet in the cave shall forever echo in the hearts of the many people out there whose first love was washed away by fear or Fate...

And then in 1991 another tragic hero was born. Actor Murali just so aptly filled in the shoes of the pining lover in Idhayam. A reasonably good medical student with no confidence in himself, can never muster the courage to reveal his love to the girl his heart beats for. And when she at last recognizes and understands his love, he is in no position to take it. The scene of him out in the rain, his love drenched in tears, made such an impact back in the day.

Anything that is forbidden has a charm that is simply irresistible! And that too when it comes in a package quite as beautiful as Manisha Koirala, there's just no way in stopping a lover-boy like Shahrukh Khan! In Uyire (Dil Se in Hindi, 1998) Mani Ratnam very beautifully takes us through the turbulent romance of a couple – it's a romance that has doom written all over it, and though everyone of us in the audience wanted them to live happily ever after, that was not the happy ending they got.

Love, they say can drive you to your wits' end. In the case of the 1999 movie Sethu (starring Vikram) our hero's love drives him to various good deeds including turning over a good-leaf, given that he is quite the black-sheep of the family. It's not his love that makes him mad, but when he regains his sanity only to find out that his girl is no more, he chooses the mental asylum over his old life. Now that was director Bala's master-stroke, that made-up for whatever else one might say the rest of the story lacked...

In 2002, Thangar Bachan and Parthiban just cruised to the top with Azhagi. Set to tune by some wonderful scores by Ilaiyaraaja's, the movie tells the story of a young couple in the village who are forced to part ways. Many years later, he is married and has a child, when he finds her and her son living on the pavement. He brings her home where she works as a maid.

When his wife finds out about their past and that leads to marital discord, Azhagi leaves. He eventually finds her son whom he adopts, but his search for her continues... The multitude of emotions the two go through, just leave you aching inside.

Selvaraghavan's Kadhal Kondein (2003) and 7G Rainbow Colony (2004) are considered classics, and why not. The first is the twisted love story of a small-town boy (Dhanush). Growing up in painful situations, subject to mental and physical trauma, this boy; a genius; when it comes to math is maimed emotionally. His fixation on his college best friend (Sonia Agarwal), turns bloody and leads up to a climax with him dangling off a cliff along with her lover. She can save only one of them.

And just knowing that she could not decide who that would be is



7G RAINBOW COLONY



KADHAL



AZHAGI

RAAVANAN



UYIRE



enough love for him as he willingly lets go of her hand. Yuvanshankar Raja's music for the movie was just brilliant, only matched by his own compositions for Selvaraghavan's other brilliant love story 7G Rainbow Colony. A very simple story of a wayward middle-class boy who falls for a North Indian girl. She rejects him at first because he's a no-good ambitionless guy. But when he cleans up his act and she is willing to reciprocate, first her family intervenes, and then Fate comes speeding along the road. The movie was a raving success with the young crowd that watched the denouement through a blurry curtain of tears.

Almost all of us have heard stories of rich girls hitting the highway with their penniless lovers. And we have seen this story so many times in the movies too. But Balaji Shaktivel hit us all head-on with Kadhal (2004). Joshua Sridhar's music helped us warm-up to the unlikely romance between an affluent and powerful gang leader's daughter and her scooter mechanic. They elope and get married and get set to start their life together, when it all comes crashing down. Sandhya who debuted with the film and her greasy lover Bharath both did a commendable job in making us teary-eyed.

You might not count Gautham Vasudev Menon's Kaakha Kaakha (2003) in the tragedy genre, because we tend to forget he lost the girl. ACP Anbuchelvan was way too impressive and his

khaki outshone Maya. But nevertheless, when you watch him draw open the curtains in the end of the movie, your heart does go out to him. Harris Jayaraj scored big time with the music for the movie.

The rugged, amoral ruffian and the naive village girl in director Ameer's Paruthiveeran (2007) just took our breath away! Not exactly your mushy romance, the movie nevertheless scored full marks with the audience when the male lead takes the blame for the death of his lover, for with her gone, he has nothing to live for anyways. Another interesting love story with a sad ending but with a psychological angle is the mega hit Kadhalil Vizhundhen (2008). A young guy roaming the streets with the corpse of his lover, oblivious to the fact that she is dead... Nakka Mukka (the kuthu song courtesy Vijay Antony) may have drawn you to the movie, but the story sure won our hearts.

The one-sided romance of Veera in Raavanan (2010) cannot be brushed aside. Mani Ratnam is known for the fine way he deals with the love-lines in his movies. Raavanan, is not one of your typical perfumed love stories. Vikram's growing love for the wife of his enemy, that leads to his own death, is an intense journey. How many of us wished she had jumped off the cliff when the bullets forced his fall...

And then there was Prabu Solomon's Mynaa (2010). He didn't bother with painting a pretty picture. In all its crudeness the love story of Mynaa and her Suruli was heart-warming. The end came as a harsh blow not just to him, but to all of us. And Prabu Solomon was not going to stop with that. In 2012, he came out with Kumki, that left us all shocked and broken alongside the mahout who loses everything that ever mattered in his life.

These stars and the makers and the stories they tell, are all meant to entertain. But from time-to-time they tell us a tale that sings to our soul the sweetest, saddest dirge that makes an impact more shattering and lasting than the loudest punch. And we thank them for sharing...

WRITTEN BY KAANCHAN PRASHANTH

Sometimes, it's not just the main story that touches you. The sub-plots can leave a lasting impact as well. Didn't we all feel truly bad for the dwarf clown Appu in Aboorva Sagodharargal when the engagement ring was prised



off his finger? And weren't we all torn to bits when Karthik was accidentally shot just moments before he was to be married in Mouna Raagam?



PARUTHI VEERAN



MYNAA

DIARY OF A WHACKY KID!



SIVAKARTHIKEYAN



PREMGI



VIJAY SETHUPATHY

THE HARDEST FEAT THEY SAY IS TO MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH. BUT WHEN THESE THREE GUYS GET TO WORK IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THEY HAVE TO TRY VERY HARD. SIVAKARTHIKEYAN WITH HIS WITTICISMS, PREMGI WITH HIS QUIRKY BODY LANGUAGE AND VIJAY SETHUPATHY IN HIS SIMPLE DEMEANOUR ALWAYS MANAGE TO TICKLE OUR FUNNY BONE! KAANCHAN PRASHANTH FINDS OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE FUNNY GUY ON THE SET...

PREMGI



PREMGI STARTED OUT AS COUSIN YUVANSHANKAR RAJA'S ASSOCIATE IN THE MUSIC LINE. HE TURNED ACTOR WHEN HIS BRO VENKAT PRABHU TURNED DIRECTOR...

What you see of Premgi on the big screen, is not what you will see in person. "I'm a quiet guy. I do let go of myself with my closest friends, but otherwise I'm usually the silent type," he says. Hard to believe indeed! "The way I am in my movies is entirely what the director has bid me to do. The lines I say and the funny expressions I make are exclusive to the role I play. It has nothing to do with who I am," he vows. So be it!

GC: YOU SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN COMFORTABLE WORKING ONLY WITH YOUR BROTHER...

PREMGI: I did try working with other directors after Chennai 28, but the reception from the audience was not very good. But in Venkat Prabhu's movies, my part is always received well. The claps from the audience is unbelievable! I guess, he knows me so well, that he manages to bring out the best in me.

GC: BUT YOU ARE WORKING IN A NON-VENKAT MOVIE NOW: SETTAI..

PREMGI: Yes and I am happy I got the part. When I saw Delhi Belly, I thought that if this movie was made in Tamil, I would love to be a part of it. And it so happened that when they were casting the three main male characters in the movie, Arya called me and asked me if I was interested. And I was more than happy to get on board. It's been a fun ride.



GC: WHAT QUIRKS CAN WE EXPECT FROM YOU IN SETTAI?

PREMGI: None at all! When Arya told me about the movie he told me that I am not the comedian in the film. He said consider yourself the second hero. All the funny stuff is Santhanam's territory. My character ends up in funny situations but he is not intentionally funny. No animated body language or dialogues. It's all very subtle.

GC: SOUNDS LIKE AN IMAGE-MAKEOVER...

PREMGI: Well, when people think of me they expect fun and entertainment. Settai has that. But my character has been drawn very differently from my previous movies.

Director R Kannan comes from Mani Ratnam's school! His way of dealing with the characters is very different. He was constantly telling me to downplay my character. No drama and exaggerated expressions. In almost all of my previous movies I have some funny mannerisms or a punch line, there is nothing of that sort in Settai. Since I am so used to that kind of body language, the director and Arya were constantly reminding me to keep it subtle! But I think the rapport that Arya, Santhanam and I share has worked well for the movie.



GC: BEING THE FUNNY GUY MEANS GETTING PICKED ON, IN THE MOVIES AND OUTSIDE TOO. ANY EGO ISSUES THERE?

PREMGI: I am quite a quick-tempered guy. And during the time of Chennai 28 when the guys used to call me the comedian and tease me, I used to argue with them that I got more claps than all of them. And to a certain extent I did! But now with the advent of social networking and just about everyone being ripped apart, I guess I've learned to be more tolerant! I have people who come and congratulate me on my performance and then I have people who ask me why I am even trying to be an actor! Earlier I used to want to scream at those people, but now I just say Thank You even to them. It's like Nicki Minaj said: the people who hate you are those who think you are better than them! So we must thank them for the motivation and the compliment!

SIVAKARTHIKEYAN

HAVE YOU TUNED INTO HIS SHOW ON TV? HE ALWAYS HAD HIS AUDIENCE IN GOOD HUMOUR! AND HE CONTINUES TO DO SO WITH THE CHOICE OF MOVIES HE IS BUSY WITH THESE DAYS! WELL, HELLO SIVAKARTHIKEYAN!

"Growing up, I was this very quiet and reticent kid. I usually answered the questions that came my way in mono-syllables," he grins. No, not you too! "My friends and family were quite shocked to see the guy I transformed into when I got into TV! To start with they didn't believe I was doing TV and the way I spoke and joked, was an even bigger surprise! Sometimes I myself couldn't believe it was me!" But we really like the New You!



GC: YOU WERE REAL HILARIOUS ON TV AND NOW YOU HAVE CARRIED THAT ON TO THE BIG SCREEN...

SIVA K: Like I said before, I had no idea I could be this funny and that people would accept me that way. It just happened and I gladly accepted it. But I sure want to try something different. No actor wants to get slotted or stereo-typed. I would love to try movies in different genres and roles that have a serious slant to it. After a point, I am sure the audience will get tired of me, if I keep on doing the same kind of movies. I will get bored myself!

GC: SO YOU ARE READY FOR THE ACTION BLOCKS AND THE PUNCH DIALOGUES?

SIVA K: Well, I can only do characters that suit me. The comedy that came across in the small screen is what brought me to cinema. So I can take on other kinds of roles very gradually. I have to be very careful because I don't want people to end up laughing at me when I'm trying to be serious. And I'm pretty sure that will be the case if go about saying punch dialogues! You need to have a mass image and a huge fan-following to be eligible for a punch dialogue!



GC: BUT YOU ARE DOING THE DUETS NOW...

SIVA K: Yes! It's very difficult to get those love looks! I have never been in love in reality so there is not much I can take from real life experience! If it was just about looking at a girl and doing a one-side romance, it would be easy! But I've never been in a situation where the girl also said YES!

GC: DO YOU MISS THE TV SHOWS AND AUDIENCE?

SIVA K: Of course! That was a different experience altogether. TV is all about being spontaneous and in the moment. With cinema, you have the constraints of the story and your characterization. I loved doing my TV shows, that's what gave me an identity, and I'm happy it led me to cinema.

GC: SO WHAT ARE THE FUN PROJECTS KEEPING YOU BUSY THESE DAYS...

SIVA K: First-up there is Ethir Neechal produced by Dhanush. It's a light hearted romance. All the jokes are on me! More than me pulling someone else's leg, I'm at the butt of all the comedy! Then there is Kedi Billa Killadi Ranga. I'm co-starring with Vimal. The movie is about two completely jobless guys and the ridiculous situations they find themselves in and the utter chaos they create. After these two movies there's one with director M Rajesh's associate. That one is another full-on comedy film. The dialogues are by Rajesh himself, so you can imagine the kind of humour in store. Whatever comedy I left out of Ethir Neechal and Kedi Billa Killadi Ranga, will be made up for in this one. So as of now, the serious roles are yet to come, but I am enjoying the comedy ride while it lasts!



VIJAY SETHUPATHY



2012 WAS A PARTICULARLY GOOD YEAR FOR THIS GUY. HE STARRED IN THE NATIONAL AWARD WINNING THENMERKU PARUVAKATTRU IN 2010 BUT IT WAS PIZZA, SUNDARAPANDIAN & NADUVULA KONJAM PAKKATHA KANOM THAT ACTUALLY DID THE TRICK...

"You can want something very badly and you can even work hard to get it. But time must favour you. You just have to be at the right place, at the right moment," says Vijay Sethupathy and we sense that the philosophy didn't just dawn upon him one fine morning. It's experience that's talking...

GC: EVEN BEFORE PIZZA YOU'VE BEEN DOING SOME GOOD ROLES...

VIJAY S: But it so happened that it was Pizza and NKPK that got me noticed. Thenmerku Paruvakattru was not a commercial success, but it won the National Award. In spite of that award, I know that many people watched the movie only after they saw Pizza and NKPK. I guess, you just have to be ready to grab your prized moment when it comes by you.

GC: THE WAIT SEEMS TO HAVE WIZENED YOU...

VIJAY S: Patience is a very important lesson that you learn in cinema. After having done Thenmerku Paruvakattru, I thought it would be smooth-sailing from there on. I expected lead roles to come my way soon after the movie released. But NO, I had to wait for more than a year for my next lead role to happen. It was a long wait.



GC: BUT IN THE MEAN TIME YOU KEPT YOURSELF BUSY WITH SHORT-FILMS...

VIJAY S: Yes and I am glad I did so. When I decided to act, I knew nothing about acting. I learnt most of what I know today on the job. The many short-films that I did helped me grow as an actor. I am pretty sure that if Pizza or NKPK had come to me a few months earlier I would not have done as good a job. It's the short-films that I worked in that prepared me and trained me for the big screen.

GC: DID YOU SENSE THE SUCCESS OF PIZZA THE MOMENT YOU HEARD THE STORY?

VIJAY S: I have worked with Karthik Subbaraj before on his short-films. We became good friends and hence we have a great working relationship. Once he had written the story for

Pizza, he gave it to me to read. And once I started reading, I just could not put it down. Right there I knew that this was going to be a different film and that the audience will give it a chance. We were all overwhelmed by its success. The films I'm doing now are also like Pizza, very different from the usual stories we see. There's the dark thriller Sudhu Kavvum and then the full on comedy Pannaiyaram Padminiyum. Later this year I will be working with Ranjith, director Raam's associate.

GC: YOU HAD A GOOD LINE-UP OF HITS LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR IS LOOKING GOOD TOO. HOW ARE YOU FEELING RIGHT NOW?

VIJAY S: I am feeling great. I have no backing in cinema, but that doesn't make me feel insecure in anyway because I know that at the end of the day it's only your talent that counts. I keep hearing people say that after the success of Pizza and NKPK I have become very head-strong and choosey. The success of Pizza is entirely the outcome of Karthik's hard work. Likewise with NKPK, the credit goes to the way Balaji Tharaneetharan dealt with the screenplay. I was merely doing as I was bid so there is no way I can let that get to my head. As for being choosey, the only reason I am not listening to scripts is because I have already signed on movies. I am not such a big star to keep other people waiting and so I just tell those who approach me with stories to carry on. My career is just taking off, and I don't want to rush it.

Written by KAANCHAN PRASHANTH

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LONDON'S FILMISTA

ASHANTI OMKAR

It has been a month to go to the cinema.

When art is persecuted for the terrors of the world, it is a worrying time in history, in my humble opinion.

I've never met Kamal Haasan, who is someone I have greatly admired over the years.

London has been quiet of late - we've had some severe weather with oodles of beautiful snow and as is usual for me in these winter months that surround my birthday on 25th January, I love to hibernate. Nothing beats home made coffee, where I grind carefully selected beans and flavour my concoctions as I like and French press to perfection. It is not unusual for me to sip a brew of vanilla and coconut sweet black coffee.

Apart from a flying visit from Saif Ali Khan, for the promotions of Race 2, it has been a month to go to the cinema, catch releases of Oscar awards contenders and really embrace the season of wearing boots and thick coats. I find that I cherish any outings I make during this time, so it is also a hugely inspiring time for me. I spent lots of time catching up with close friends and family, got hugely pampered for my birthday, which was delightful.

I had been speaking about Vishwaroopam as much as I could, as it didn't get a huge UK release and only in Tamil, not in Hindi. I really wanted to shout to the world about a film that had used budget towards technical aspects like sound design - by my LA based friend Kunal Rajan, and be on par with Hollywood. As a fan of TV series like 24 and Sleeper Cell, or films like Zero Dark Thirty, I did not think twice about the controversy surrounding this film.

Now I've never met Kamal Haasan, who is someone I have greatly admired over the years, not just for his path-breaking cinematic choices, but his innate ability to look at risk in the face and take it on. As a child, I had seen him as little Selvam in Kalathur Kannamma and in films like Apoorva Raagangal and was enveloped by people who were in love with his work. I would have seen Salangai Oli a hundred times to date and have cried many tears

while watching Nayagan, and watching him in sheer awe, in films like Thevar Magan and Anbe Sivam.

As someone who was raised in Denmark, Nigeria in West Africa and then the rest of my life in London, Kamal Haasan, is one of those actors that fully embodies Tamil cinema and perhaps Indian cinema too. His work is truly spectacular and is certainly on par with performances by some of my favourite Western actors.

Imagine my surprise when this whole episode blew up and in a very rare occasion, the film Vishwaroopam came out in the UK on my birthday and I was getting to see it way before my peers and friends in Chennai could. Moreover, my Dad came to see it in the cinema, a feat, as he had not set foot into a film hall in over 20 years. I rued that I was unable to fly to LA, for the premiere there, as I had been invited and I also had an interesting chat with the female lead, Pooja Kumar, an American-Asian actress who is a friend of many friends.

There have been many films made around the subjects of insurgency and terrorism, the likes of Roja, Maachis, Dil Se.. (Uyire), The terrorist, Fanaa, A Wednesday!, more recently, the much lauded



Thuppakki and even films like My name is Khan and Yash Raj films New York, and Kurbaan, all of which touch upon these topics. A few have caused controversy and others have been watched for what they are.

When art is persecuted for the terrors of the world - in anything, from Yo Yo Honey Singh and the Delhi rape case, to a film like Vishwaroopam, it is a worrying time in history, in my humble opinion. Film makers often take the risk of touching upon any taboo subject and have to face a barrage of abuse, for simply creating works of art. Cinema, after all, is just that. They are not supporting the crimes, they are simply highlighting different facets of the world and blaming them for the actions of a small percentage of 'bad people', to put it simply, is highly unfair.

At a very basic level, this film is about technical brilliance. It is about a man who is every-man. He is good and he is bad. He is a villain and a hero. He is a human being, who is on a life journey, like any of us. How this film as I saw it, uncult, has upset sentiment, is beyond my comprehension, as I have seen so many films that broach this subject. The bottom line with this sensitive topic, is that there are fundamentalists in this world, from ever faction. If cinema is oppressed, like any art, for simply telling stories, then we really





have a problem on our hands. The job of a censor board, is to catch potentially offensive scenes and cut them. When they do what they do best and allow a film through, then it is highly unfair for the film to be further cut. Will the cuts make a difference to perception? That is the question. I personally don't believe this to be true.

After seeing and hearing the impassioned speeches that Kamal Haasan has made around these dark times for him, I can only sit in my throne in London, feeling helpless and shed a tear. I also pray that this saga will end in things changing. What more can a film lover hope for, right?

Moving straight onto Mani Ratnam, the 'guru' of musical genius and double Oscar and Grammy winner AR Rahman. They started their association back in 1992 with the very subject of terrorism, in Roja. Ratnam has gone through hurdles with films like Bombay and I am thankful that he stood strong to his art and never compromised. This has meant that they have brought us many wonderful films with varying subjects. A film like Kannathil Muthamittal is also one with a core of this same subject, in a very different way, as told through the eyes of a child - it remains one of my all time favourite films.

Jumping straight to their latest offering, Kadal, a film that remained



Photos: Akin Aworan

shrouded in secrecy, as often happens with those from the famous Madras Talkies production house. Imagine my delight that the cinematographer par excellence, Rajiv Menon, joined the crew, so the dream team from the film Bombay came together to create what I deem a masterpiece. Mani Ratnam has always had an eye for visceral beauty and this film made me all the more nostalgic for the sea and the lush backwaters of Kerala, that I had the pleasure of experiencing in 2005.

The magic began with the music, where songs like Moongil thottam and Nenjukulle, with their simple yet effective lyrical brilliance and Adiye and Elay keechan, which pulled at my sensory strings. I could probably write an epistle on this, but I will just say that the film and the spiritual journey it took me on, is something that not everyone will relate to, but it certainly did with me. The layers given to the well etched characters and their decisions are all for discerning film-goers, who will be thinking about them further once the film ends, and also discuss them further. Alas, I note that such subjects get sidelined into his day and age, where the films that make the most money are of the frivolous kind.

The come-back of Arvind Swamy was truly spot on, with his subtle expressions, in contrast with 'Action King' Arjun, who also was on point with his menacing role. I had been friends with the actor Karthik, the son of the amazing Muthuraman, who my Parents loved. I was delighted when his son, Gautham Karthik, was taken on as the young male lead in this. And he delivered as I expected, despite not being a part of the cinematic world until he was cast in this film. The young teenage Thulasi Nair reminded me somewhat of myself, in her child-like role and it is nice to see her potential has been tapped into, for the forthcoming film Yaan, by the brilliant Ravi K Chandran, who takes up direction, after his



string of brilliant DoP (Director of photography) work.

I often gush about the work of Vikram, who is one of the most versatile actors in Indian cinema. Imagine my thrill when the film 'David' was announced. It was exciting to hear the premise of this whimsical film that Bejoy Nambiar had come up with, which had an ensemble of music directors, stalwart actors like Nasser and the ever-stupendous Jiiva, the talented Tabu, the singing sensation Shweta Pandit in her acting debut and the voices of singers like Karthik, who has astounded me since his early singing days in films like 'Star'.

Hearing the work of Prashant Pillai in the soundtrack, someone who I'd known for a long time and the voice of Joyshanti, the French musician, made for a very enjoyable film indeed. The house was full at Cineworld Ilford, the heart of 'Asian London' and the laughter was indeed loud. Many bilingual films are getting UK releases only in Tamil, with English subtitles, but while making me sad that an entire audience is perhaps alienated, this gives me hope that more film lovers will go and see Tamil films.

With that note, I bid you goodbye for another month. Stay safe, stay blessed and keep that mind open, for all the wonderful things the world beholds.



The job of a censor board, is to catch potentially offensive scenes and cut them.

I often gush about the work of Vikram, who is one of the most versatile actors in Indian cinema.

Keep that mind open, for all the wonderful things the world beholds.

CREATIVE FREEDOM **VS** SHADOWS IN NUMBERS



SWARUPA PILLAI

The writer is an active member of the Research Board of 'World Cinema: The Constant Chrysalis'.

India produces the largest number of films every year. It sells the largest number of movie tickets annually in the world; which revenue runs into millions of USD. It's the only country that releases hundreds of films in various languages. So go the statistics. But right at very climax of releasing a film is one of the vast problems we

face between ethnic groups.

Remember Deepa Mehta's 'Fire' in 1997? Theatres were set on fire and protests were staged outside them, because certain ethnic groups thought the explicit homosexual content in the film, was completely against Indian culture, and unfit for viewing by the Indian audience. Unfortunately good news never lasts long in the world of celluloid.

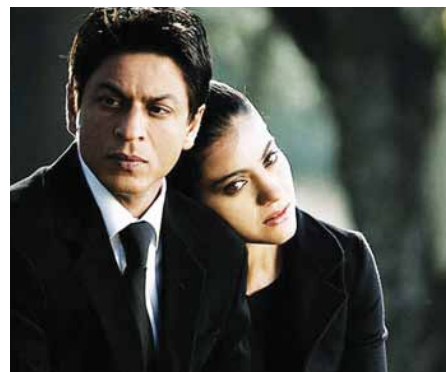
Mumbai and the Maharashtra territories are easily the money raking areas for any Hindi film, and Chennai and certain North cities in Tamil Nadu for Tamil films because of the language as well as audience numbers. Multiplexes as well as single theatres wait for such big releases to bring in the moolah, but certain times, differences of culture opinions seem to be in control of whether a film should release or not.

After several decades of filmmaking in the country, and with the craft having seen evolution on a great scale in the last ten years, directors and actors are still under the scanner with regard to their freedom of expression. Theatre owners refused to cooperate with the distributors and cops during the release of the Shah Rukh Khan starrer 'My Name is Khan', although they had protection, because they were not willing to face the wrath of thousands of activists.

In the event of extensive damage, they argued that they would have to put up the money themselves, and face losses in lakhs of INR. Who would pay for these losses if they are incurred? It could be a battle between the unity of India's Film Industry against a certain group of individuals for the freedom of expression in cinema.

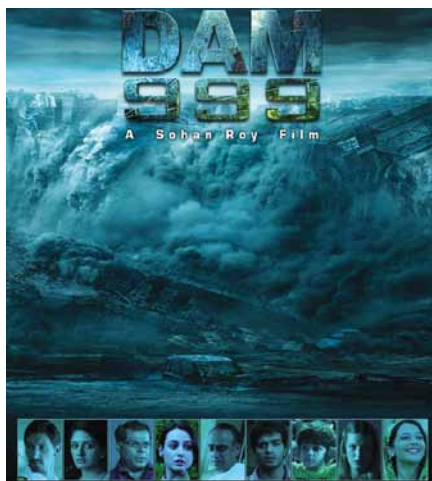
For various reasons, Kamal Hassan's

magnum opus 'Vishwaroopam' was delayed with its release; and for fear of chaos in the respective cities, law and order became the face of the film over art. Simultaneously Ameer's (who also happens to be the FEFSI President) 'Aadhibaghavan' starring Jayam Ravi is being looked at with a microscope by other ethnic groups for certain religious content which seems offensive; just a few days before its release.



Bejoy Nambiar's 'David' all set for release is another film which has cropped up in this list of cross fire between filmmakers and ethnic groups. A year back 'Dam 999' faced trouble because of its content affecting the sentiments of people. Most business terms are

stating that these films lose money at the box office because of screen allotment and scheduling. How far can we speculate on both sides is the battle.



On the other side of the river, another Shah Rukh Khan starrer 'Devdas', way back in 2002, was celebrated at the Toronto Film Festival for the magnificent canvas it was painted on. Maniratnam's 'Raavanam' received the same applause at the same festival in 2010. Art is one form that brings cultures and people together because language is no barrier. Indian films are embraced overseas at Film Festivals and Award ceremonies; and are a true celebration of talent.



But what the audiences are not prepared for is a grinding halt to release of films a day before its release. There are viewers in millions who support the entertainment industry and wait for a year or more for

certain films to hit the screens. 'Vishwaroopam' was set for release in July 2012 and later scheduled for December 2012, but was eventually postponed to a grand release this year with a red carpet premiere in Los Angeles.

At the premiere was Barrie Osborne (Lord of the Rings producer) who associated with Kamal to showcase the film and India's cinematic talent (more precisely Tamil Cinema's talent) to the world. But destiny turned the cards around when the film was slammed by specific ethnic groups for hurting their sentiments and the film never hit the silver screen on the scheduled day.

Tickets which had been booked by millions had to be returned at the counters; with theatre owners rushing to reschedule films so that they would not lose money and fans turning silent at the spectacle more in confusion than anything else. Why would content be a problem to releasing a film?

After all, Indians have been making films for a century now and controversial subjects have been wrung inside out by many filmmakers. A legendary actor, director and producer, who has contributed to the Indian Film Industry for several decades now; Kamal was caught in the controversial spotlight for trying to release his film (which storyline is already out in the press by those who have seen it). From the red carpets to the courts, switching between mind sets and turning the tables; between the solidarity of the Film Industry and the shadows in numbers arises the sword fight on an open battlefield.

With several crores of INR investment at stake and a two year long time investment for its making; the film hiccupped and took a different turn on the opening weekend. To the Film Industry it's about creative freedom; to the ethnic groups it's about hurt sentiments. To the audience, there is only one simple question in the air – Who will take the step to solving this bridge of differences of opinions?

Time and again Indian films have been under the scanner for content. From Maniratnam's 'Bombay' to Kamal Hassan's 'Vishwaroopam', it's been a long journey with no solution to this problem. Cinema is not just entertainment but serious business to hundreds of individuals. It's not one single actor and producer in the form of Kamal facing the wrath of numbers; but a business which supports hundreds of families with daily bread every year.

The numerous people who would have given their heart



and soul into making 'Vishwaroopam', the creative scale of visualizing a film and the days that went into the production and post production table in the heat and cold day after day; and investment standing at a question mark – Where does all this stand?



Where does it leave creative freedom of cinema? A long list of unanswered endless questions goes on and on as the solution seems embedded faraway. A board of members at the Censor Board is also caught in between the Film Industry and the public. After all, it's the responsibility of this Board to clear a film and slot it for the specific set of audiences.

In the midst of the chaos, thinkers and lovers of cinema view the scenario from outside the ring as clash after clash springs up in the name of art and religion. With screenings across the world flowing as per schedule, and prints leaking on the internet even before the film can hit the screens, audiences now have access to the film on home ground.

With the buzz and excitement of the release dying down because of the controversy, the film is bound to lose with collections on home ground say distributors and exhibitors. A good film is a good film; no matter what hurdles it may face before its release. So what is the puzzle all about? Exhibitors banking on this film because it's one of the largest releases of the year lose money alongside distributors. With a few days of lag, from the others' point of view, audiences quickly lose interest and wait for the next film to release.

To them it's pure entertainment. But to the filmmakers, they need to face both entertainment as well as social responsibilities while making a film. Sensitive issues arise because of various ethnic groups in our country, but why are no amicable steps taken towards the unity of people; especially with regard to the art of cinema?

Reviews are out in the open about 'Vishwaroopam'; and while Indian audiences overseas have managed to watch the film, it's only a few millions in India who had to wait for the verdict. Ban the film; edit the film; reschedule the film...And the story of the release of this film has been running for over six months now.

These six months could have just been turned around into time invested into new films; new investment; new talent and a look at the creative art of filmmaking with the right spirit just to enjoy the talent and work towards unity of art and people.

With Indians on home ground asking audiences overseas on the making of the film and Kamal's performance – A well known filmmaker rightly says, "No matter how much international acclaim a filmmaker and film gets, what matters most is the appreciation we get back home".

WILD WEST

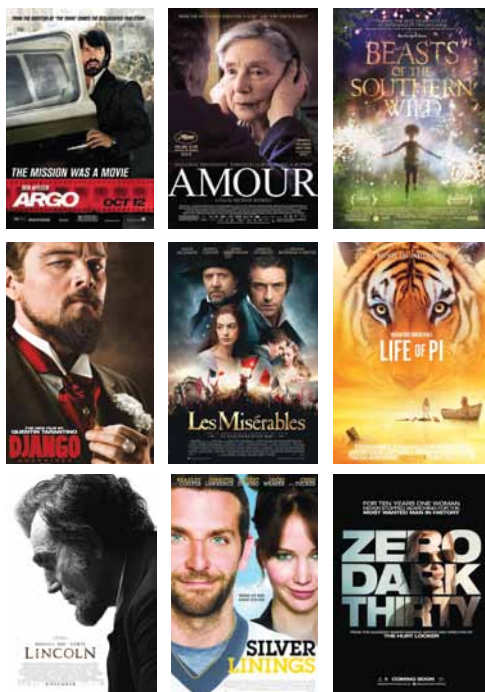
The Oscars are here, and we take a look at the nominees, and the favourites for the statuette, and pick our favourite!

BIG budgets NONSTOP action super SFX animation PAR EXCELLENCE OSCAR performances rib-tickling COMEDIES

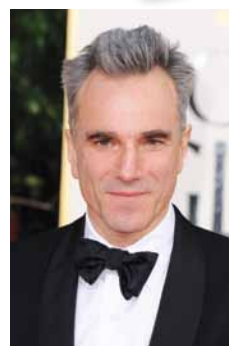
And the Nominees are...

Best Picture

Nine movies instead of the recent trend of 10, and the best movies have made it to the nominees list. The favourites to grab the top honours are *Lincoln* and *Les Misérables*, but the Academy may spring a surprise by choosing *Argo*. Galatta picks *Life of Pi*, obviously a biased choice!



Actor in a Leading Role



Daniel Day-Lewis
Lincoln



Bradley Cooper
Silver Linings Playbook



Emmanuelle Riva
Amour



Jessica Chastain
Zero Dark Thirty



Jennifer Lawrence
Silver Linings Playbook



Hugh Jackman
Les Misérables



Joaquin Phoenix
The Master



Naomi Watts
The Impossible



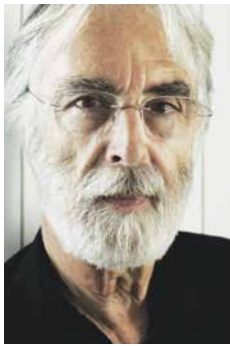
Quvenzhané Wallis
Beasts of the Southern Wild

Actress in a Leading Role



Denzel Washington
Flight

A fine group of talented actors, two of them already Oscar Award winners and one who has been nominated earlier. This is the first time nomination for the remaining two. But the favourite in this group is Daniel Day Lewis and he is Galatta's pick too.



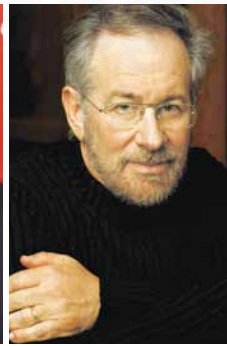
Michael Haneke
Amour



David O. Russell
*Silver Linings
Playbook*



Ang Lee
Life of Pi



Steven Spielberg
Lincoln



Benh Zeitlin
Beasts of the Southern Wild

Director

Sorely missed in this wonderful group of directors are Ben Affleck for *Argo* and Kathryn Bigelow for *Zero Dark Thirty*. Though it would be wonderful to see Ang Lee win, Galatta picks Steven Spielberg.



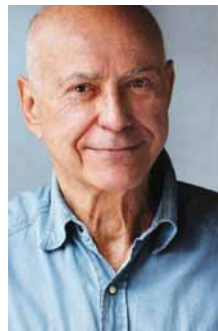
Amy Adams
The Master



Anne Hathaway
Les Misérables



Helen Hunt
The Sessions



Alan Arkin
Argo



Tommy Lee Jones
Lincoln



Christoph Waltz
Django Unchained



Sally Field
Lincoln



Jacki Weaver
*Silver Linings
Playbook*

Actress in a Supporting Role



Robert De Niro
*Silver Linings
Playbook*



Philip Seymour Hoffman
The Master

Actor in a Supporting Role

Two Academy Award winners; one of them has a double, three previously nominated actresses... and Galatta's pick is Anne Hathaway.

Such talented and veteran actors together... it will definitely be a challenge for the Academy as well. But Christoph Waltz seems to be headed for the top honours as his work has got him several nominations as well as the Golden Globe.



Brave



Frankenweenie



ParaNorman

None of the animated features were spectacular or memorable enough. But for an interesting story and the fact it was about a brave young girl, Galatta picks *Brave*.



Wreck-It Ralph



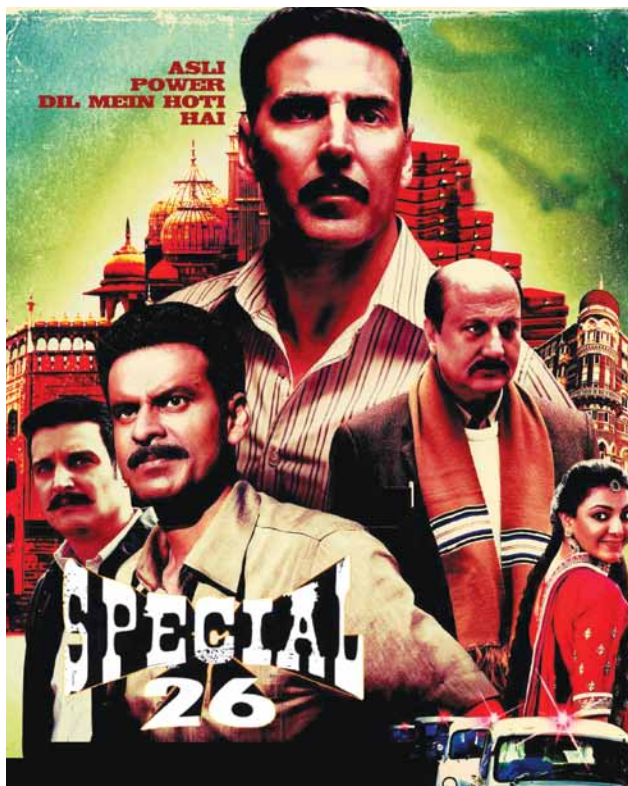
The Pirates! Band of Misfits

Animated Feature Film

B-TOWN

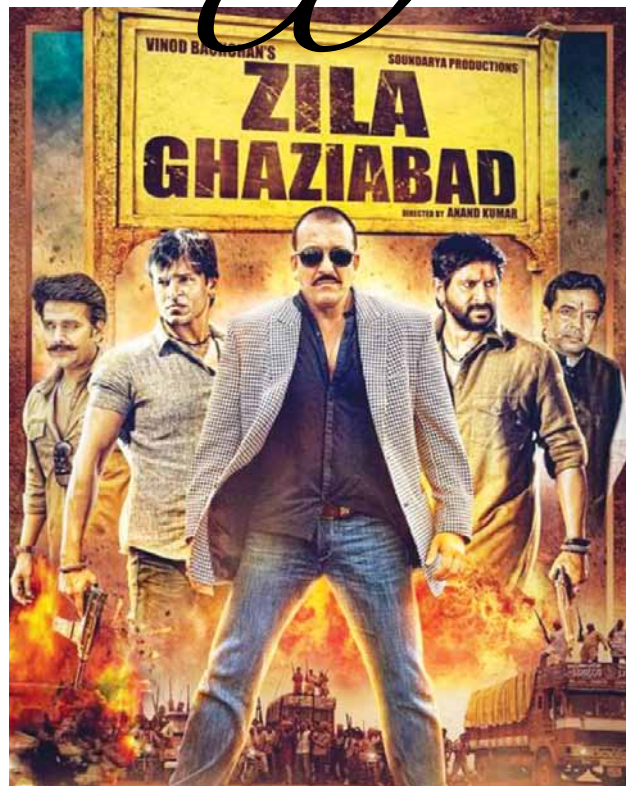
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CAST: Akshay Kumar, Kajal Aggarwal, Anupam Kher, Manoj Bajpayee, Jimmy Shergill
DIRECTOR: Neeraj Pandey **GENRE:** Crime/ Drama

The film is based on a real life group of con artists who in the 1980s robbed famous businessmen and politicians by pretending to be CBI or income tax officers. On the pretext of conducting raids they would take away all the money hoarded by them. The film depicts the very famous incident where these con-artists posing as CBI officers executed a daylight income tax raid on the Opera House branch of Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri in Mumbai, and disappeared with jewellery worth lakhs.



CAST: Arshad Warsi, Vivek Oberoi, Sanjay Dutt, Minishsa Lamba, Ravi Kishan, Paresh Rawal
DIRECTOR: Anand Kumar **GENRE:** Action

The story is based on the gang war between two powerful rival groups of Gurjars. One was led by Satbir Gurjar and the other by Mahender Fauji Bainsla, who was an ex-serviceman from the Indian Army and had taken part in the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971. Set in the 1990s, the movie also showcases the role of controversial police officer Pritam Singh in the war between the two factions. The movie is based upon a series of real life incidents that happened in Ghaziabad.

lights | camera | action

DID YOU KNOW?

Sachin Tendulkar launched the music of Mai..., the movie that marks the debut of Asha Bhosle as an actress.



Asha Bhosle, singer

ASHA SAYS:

"All I can say is that if any woman who watches the film, doesn't cry when she watches the film, then I will change my name."

ABHISHEK SAYS:

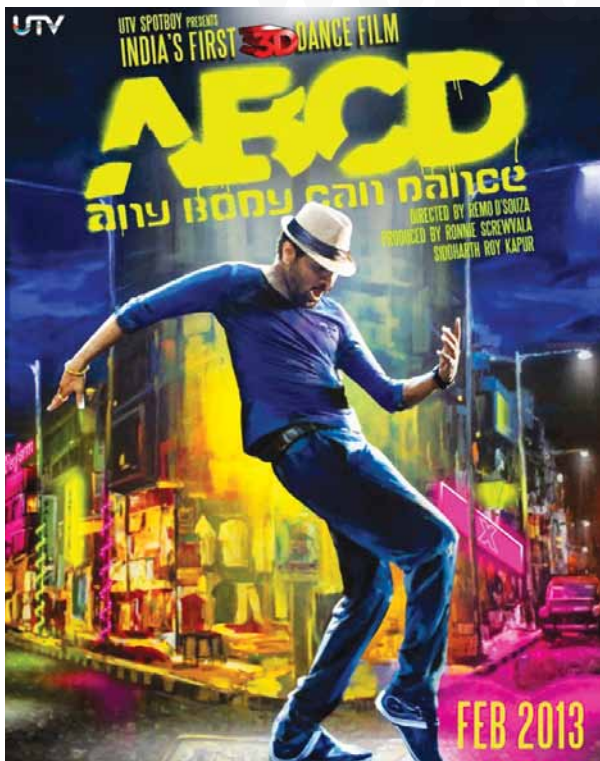
"Kai Po Che! is an intense subject, not easy to make. We removed something and added something. In the end we had a new entity."



Abhishek Kapoor, director

DID YOU KNOW?

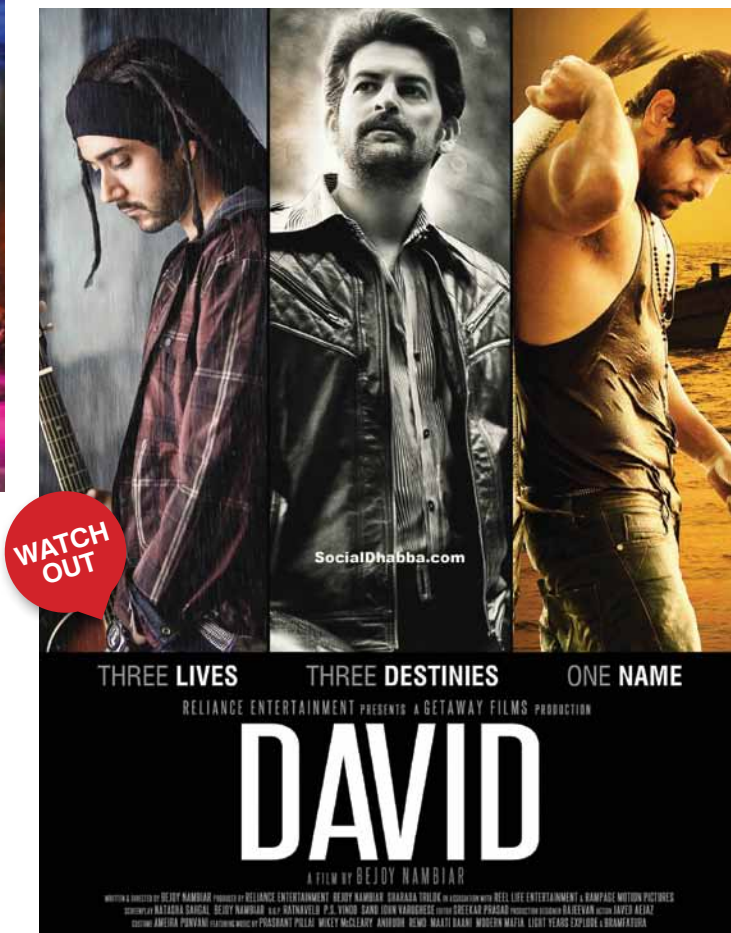
Kai Po Che! is the adaptation of Chetan Bhagat's novel The 3 Mistakes of My Life.



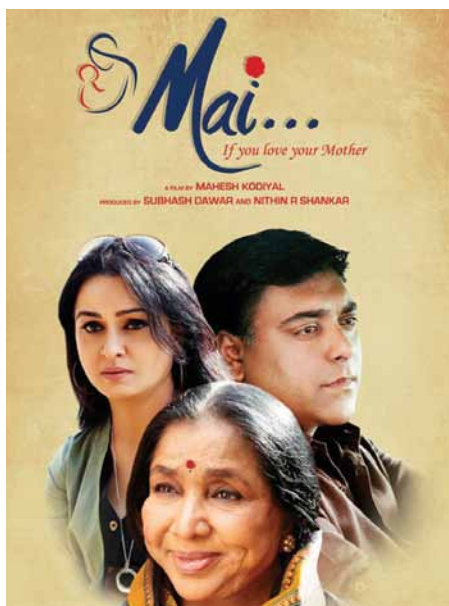
CAST: Prabhu Deva, Kay Kay Menon
DIRECTOR: Remo D'Souza **GENRE:** Dance

For Vishnu, known as India's best dancer, dance is more than a passion - it's the reason he lives! He is devastated when he is thrown out from the dance academy he himself set up, by his manipulative business partner. Heart-broken, Vishnu decides to give up dance and leave Mumbai forever. However the night before his departure he witnesses a most amazing sight - a group of dancers preparing for the upcoming Ganpati Dance Battle - an annual festival that pits Mumbai's best dance groups against each other. Watching these amazing dancers helps Vishnu arrive at a decision - he will turn this group into India's best dance squad!

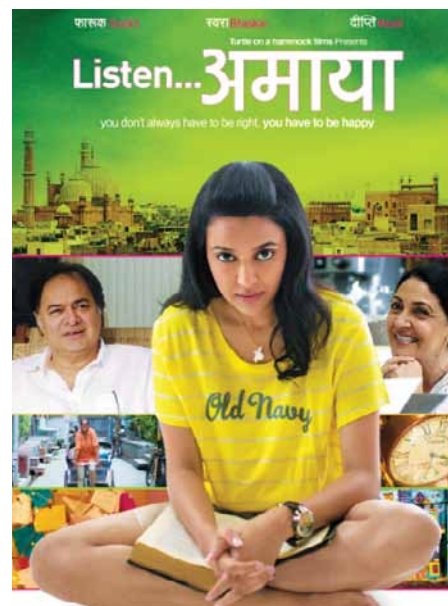
DAVID IS BROUGHT TO US BY BEJOY NAMBIAR, WHO GAVE US THE PSYCHEDELIC SHAITAN. THE MOVIE IS A COMING TOGETHER OF STORIES SET IN DIFFERENT ERAS, WITH A PROTAGONIST NAMED DAVID, WHO FINDS HIMSELF IN A TIGHT SPOT AND HE MUST MAKE A CRUCIAL DECISION THAT WILL CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER. THERE ARE THREE DAVIDS IN THE HINDI VERSION VIKRAM, NEIL NITIN MUKESH AND VINAY VIRMANI, WHILE THE TAMIL VERSION HAS JUST TWO - VIKRAM BEING THE COMMON FACTOR IN BOTH MOVIES.



THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP: FOCUS OF TWO OFF BEAT MOVIES



Mai... starring veteran singer Asha Bhosle and Listen... Amaya starring the talented Deepti Naval, portrays the mother as the protagonist. But both movies highlight different aspects of the mother and the relationship she shares with her daughter. While Mai... explores how a daughter fights with her husband to keep her mother in her house, Amaya is about how a daughter reacts when her best friend, her mother, falls in love once again! Mai... also stars Padmini Kolhapure and Ram Kapoor. Amaya, after many years, brings together on screen Farooq Sheikh and Deepti Naval.





SUNDATTAM

CLICK THE PLAY BUTTON TO SEE THE TRAILER

Here comes yet another sports-based movie in Kollywood. This time the story revolves around the board game Carrom, which is popular especially in North Chennai. Newbie Irfan (who shot to fame with Kana Kaanum Kalangal) and Arundhathi of Veluthu Kattu fame, play the lead roles. Music composed by Britto was released in Chennai recently, Aachu of Maalai Pozhudhin Mayakathilae fame, has taken care of the background score. The film is written and directed by Brahma G Dev. This is what the director had to say about this flick, "The story, set in the Nineties, revolves around the board game Carrom. Shooting the film in a metro like Chennai was difficult. It was a challenge to create the vintage atmosphere coupled with costumes and roads befitting that period. All of us have put in our best and I hope Sundattam clicks with film-goers." The film is produced by Nishaanthi R. Annadurai, who is an architect by profession. The film has six interesting songs with the right blend of melodies and peppy numbers.

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